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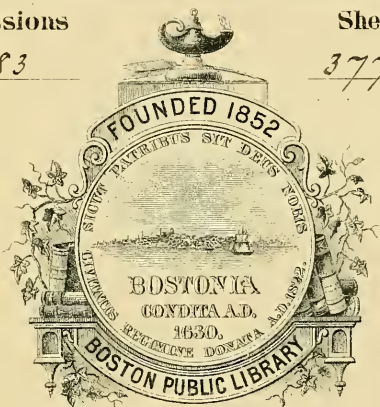
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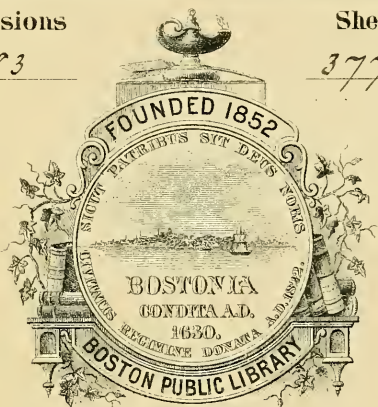
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PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
CHILD-BED FEVER:

ALSO ON THE
NATURE and TREATMENT
OF
Uterine Hæmorrhages, Convulsions,
AND SUCH OTHER
ACUTE DISEASES

As are most fatal to WOMEN during the State
of PREGNANCY.

By JOHN LEAKE, M. D.

Member of the College of PHYSICIANS, London;
And Physician to the Westminster Lying-in Hospital.

*—Hinc videtur Medicus hac in re testis officio qui narrat, non
judicat, fungi debere, ac partite singulas res quantumvis mi-
nimas notare; earum enim aliæ statim ac perceptæ sunt rectam
curandi rationem ostendunt.* BAGLIV.

THIRD EDITION corrected, with Additions.

L O N D O N:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, in *Pater-Noster-Row*; and
T. EVANS, near *York-Buildings*, in the *Strand*.

M.DCCCLXXV.

13883.

Walter Channing, M. D.

Mar. 18, 1856

TO THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
LONDON;
THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS
ARE
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.

London,
Graven Street, December 10th, 1772.

*Speedily will be published in Quarto, being the Third Edition,
corrected; Price 2s. 6 d.*

A LECTURE introductory to the THEORY and
PRACTICE of MIDWIFERY: Including
the history, nature, and tendency of that Science;
with a view of its several branches, and the proper
means of attaining a perfect knowledge of the whole.
Together with animadversions on the qualification and
deportment of an ACCOUCHEUR; publicly delivered
the 4th of *October* 1773.

By JOHN LEAKE, M. D.

Printed for R. BALDWIN, *Pater-noster Row*; and T. EVANS,
near York Buildings, Strand.

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INTRODUCTION.

IF those diseases which have been found most dangerous and mortal in their effects, ought principally to be considered by physicians ; none will more deservedly claim their attention than the *Child-bed Fever* ; as there is not, perhaps, any malady to which the human body is subject, where powerful remedies of every kind have been tried with more diligence and less success. But, surely, this circumstance, discouraging as it is, should

8 INTRODUCTION.

should not render them regardless of the event, but rather increase their solicitude for the patients safety ; and induce them to try new methods of cure, since those hitherto adopted have frequently failed.

Whilst I was preparing the following sheets for the press, Dr. *Hulme* published a treatise on the same subject, the 29th of February 1772 ; where some points of doctrine being laid down as *new*, which I had repeatedly advanced, near three years before in my *public course of Lectures on Midwifery, and the Diseases incident to Women* ; I cannot, without injustice to myself, on this occasion, omit the mention of the following circumstances, viz. That towards the end of the year 1769, and about the beginning of 1770, I attended several patients who laboured under the Child-bed Fever, both in private practice, and at the *Westminster Lying-in Hospital* ; in consequence of being physician to that charity.

As

As I gave *Lectures* on the *theory* and *practice* of *midwifery*; I thought it my duty to communicate whatever I knew on that subject, to those gentlemen who did me the honour to attend as *pupils*; and therefore, in consequence of such observations as the daily occurrences of different cases, and the frequent inspection of morbid bodies afforded me at the *Hospital* and elsewhere, I took the liberty to advance the following particulars. Namely, that the *omentum* was the part principally affected, having generally found it either almost totally consumed and melted down into a thick curd-like pus, or partially suppurated and inflamed; and that this inflammation had often overspread the surface of the intestines. A large quantity of purulent whey-coloured fluid was also found in the cavity of the abdomen and pelvis, mixed with small clots of blood and curd-like matter.

I also laid it down, as my opinion, that this fever was not occasioned by a translocation or absorption of *corrupted milk* from the breasts, or from any obstruction of the *putrid lochia*; and also that it was not owing to an *inflammation* of the *uterus*, or to any morbid affection of that organ, as generally believed and asserted by different authors; and therefore, that it ought to be referred to other causes, as a *Disease of a peculiar nature*, and distinct from all others.—However, the conformity between that gentleman's writings and mine, may be solely confined to the description of the characteristic symptoms of the disease, and its morbid appearances after death; in both which, as nature is generally uniform and consistent with herself, any two authors transcribing from the same original must necessarily agree. But in what relates to the causes and cure of the disease; so far from similarity of

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of opinion, no doctrines can be found more opposite and dissimilar.

At the same time, I took occasion to mention an alteration of this article, in my *Syllabus of Lectures*, having, in a former impression (with *Hoffman*) called it the *Uterine Fever*, but being afterwards convinced there was nothing strictly uterine in that complaint; in the next impression, A. D. 1771, I gave it the name of the *Acute Fever*, peculiar to Women after delivery.

I also from experience, recommended *early and copious Bleeding*, with the anti-phlogistic method, in preference to every thing else which I had seen tried in the cure;—and as a confirmation of these facts, I appeal to the gentlemen whose names are subjoined, and who attended and took notes at the several public courses of my Lectures, given in the three succeeding years of 1770, 1771, and 1772; in which, the several points of

doctrine already mentioned, were circumstantially and repeatedly laid down.

Being not a little solicitous for the recovery of the patients entrusted to my care, I spared no pains in giving my attendance by every possible opportunity, and also had the satisfaction of meeting Dr. *James Ford*, a gentleman deservedly eminent for his candor and skill, and one of the physicians of this hospital: But although we frequently consulted what was best to be done, and tried various methods and medicines for their relief, our best endeavours to that end, often proved ineffectual.

It grieved me to find, that so many women died of this destructive Fever; but since there was reason to believe it was at first imperfectly understood, I still had hopes that by time and observation, it might admit of more certainty in the cure, and become less formidable. I therefore, made it a rule to commit to paper the several symptoms and circumstances in the
order

order they occurred, and also, the daily and hourly changes which happened at different periods of the disease; as far as opportunity would allow me, either from my own attendance on the sick, or the information of the *Matron* or *Nurses* in my absence. I noted down their degree of violence and time of duration, as exactly as possible, and also, whether the patient became better or worse, in consequence of such particular symptoms as appeared from time to time.

These, the reader may depend upon as so many *Facts*, or *clinical Minutes*, which I collected as materials for a history of the disease; and as for the deductions or practical inferences arising from them, they are submitted to the judgment and candor of the medical reader, as matter of opinion; to be confirmed or corrected, as they may be found to correspond with observation and future experience.

The great variety of opinions prevailing among speculative men, in what relates to the origin and cure of diseases, is a convincing proof of the fallibility of the human mind.—The subject of Physic is attended with so many difficulties, that we frequently deal in probable conjectures rather than certain truths; and this will always be the case in every science where so little can be decided by demonstration and actual experiment, and where the rest depends upon the caprice of our reasoning faculties; which are so insensibly perverted, and as it were led captive by the early prejudices of education, and the reigning customs of countries; that things thus seen through different mediums, must necessarily strike our senses very differently, tho' in their own nature, they are uniformly the same.

Respecting the most powerful remedies, as *opium*, *mercury* and the *bark*, such is the opposition of sentiments concerning their
use,

use, that one would almost be tempted to conclude, there was no true standard ; no leading and unerring principles, by which to determine, either the effect of medicines, or the nature and event of diseases.

The division of diseases into *putrid* and *inflammatory* however simple and necessary it may appear, has been productive of much dissention and cavil among practitioners ; but had they been less violent in contending about mere words, and more accurate in pointing out the true marks which constitute the difference in those two classes of diseases, they would have deserved better of the profession, and the public.

With some, almost every disorder is supposed to be of the putrid kind ; and therefore, Cordials, the Bark, and other antiseptics are directed as the sovereign remedies ; and he that should venture to direct bleeding, would run the risque of being called an executioner, rather than
a phy-

a physician. On the other hand, many in our own country, but especially in *France*, and the warmer climates, look upon most Diseases as inflammatory; and suppose, that nothing is so requisite and effectual in their Cure, as Bleeding, Evacuations, and plentiful Dilution; and the methods recommended by the former, in the very same sort of cases, are deemed no better than rank poisons. Where Men are thus enslaved by custom, or actuated by blind zeal, they often err in violent extremes, and assert their opinions with as much confidence as if there was not even a possibility of being mistaken;—but, what is still worse, they sometimes reflect on one another in terms the most illiberal and unjustifiable, to the discredit of the Profession, and the injury of each other's reputation.

Which way are we to turn, where rocks, lie on one side, and quick-sands on the other?

Nothing

Nothing has been so great an obstacle to the improvement of science, as the partiality, or obsequious regard, which men have been apt to pay to great authorities; for, whilst they disregard the testimony of their own senses, and weakly or indolently assent to things as right, on the credit of others, they are seldom at much trouble to examine whether they are really so or not; and errors early adopted, are either reluctantly corrected, or at last, take such a total possession of the mind, that they become habitual, and are retained ever after.

Much respect is certainly due to all such Authors as have set down with candor and truth, whatever they knew in the Cure of Diseases; but very often, instead of plain matter of fact, the Reader is presented with such a medley of reality and fiction, partly from books;—the Author's imagination, and the Disease itself; that when he has perused the whole, he is as much at a loss as ever how to proceed in practice.

Of late, indeed, medical writers have happily withdrawn themselves from the Fairy-land of hypothesis and conjecture; and, instead of deviating from the solid path of nature, as many of them had formerly done, are now principally guided by observation and practical experience.

Those who mean to get useful knowledge, will therefore do well, to take their information from the living body, by every opportunity of attending the sick; this will be going to the fountain-head, and reading, as it were, from the ample volume of Nature itself; where the true state of the disease will more clearly unfold itself to the diligent observer; the effect of medicines will be better known, and the method of cure, will, from thence, become more certain and consistent.

In the history of a disease, the several symptoms ought to be set down with simplicity and clearness, exactly as they present themselves, without any innovation, conjecture,

conjecture, or false colouring; which, having nothing to do with reality, would corrupt and adulterate the whole, and render it a mere recital of opinions and surmises, rather than a genuine description of the disease itself. A distinction should also be made between such symptoms as uniformly appear in the beginning, and are, as it were, the immediate offspring of the disease; and those which are only occasioned by the difference of constitution, age, climate, or errors in diet: The first ought to be considered as the true and inseparable *pathognomonic signs*, which denote its nature and tendency, and from which the indication of cure is chiefly to be taken; the last, only as accidental changes not so much to be regarded.

The state of the air, together with the patient's age and habit of body, should be mentioned; and the effect of medicines administered at different times, whe-

ther good or bad, should also be faithfully and candidly set down, and distinguished from the symptoms of the disease, or from simple efforts of nature; which, happily for the patient, are sometimes such as surmount every obstacle to a cure.

An accurate examination of the affected parts after death, by leading to the seat of the disease, also tends to perfect its history, and assist in throwing light on the cure; and this will always be most necessary in dangerous and uncommon cases, where powerful medicines have been tried in vain. By attending to those morbid appearances, which have an intimate relation to such symptoms as were imperfectly understood, we proceed from effects to their causes, which could never be done with so much certainty by regarding the signs of the disease only. For instance, it did not appear obvious from the symptoms of the *Child-bed Fever*, that the omen-

tum,

tum, rather than the *uterus* or *intestines*, was the part principally affected.

But altho' the opening of bodies may afford much information, yet false inferences have often been made from them; for, all such *morbid appearances*, as there is reason to believe did not exist till long after the invasion of the disease, ought to be looked upon as so many consequences, and not the causes of it.

The seat of diseases is often apparent, tho' their causes are frequently too remote for the discovery of the most acute and accurate observer. But notwithstanding many changes are produced in the living body, for which no adequate or satisfactory reason can be assigned, yet there are some certain appearances which almost uniformly succeed one another. For instance, pain, from whatever cause it may arise, if violent, will produce spasm, fever, and inflammation; and these are often followed by some critical evacuation; which is salutary;

tary ; or where that is wanting, by an abscess or gangrene, which falling on the vital parts, will render the disease incurable. This has often been the case in the *Child-bed Fever*, and therefore, such an unfavourable termination ought, if possible, to be prevented by evacuations, and the administration of such medicines as tend to carry off the cause of the disease by some of the natural secretions.

Sydenham has observed, that the fever which follows a suppression of the *lochia*, sometimes changed its type to that which prevailed in the epidemical season.

That women, after delivery, are more disposed to fever at one time than another, according to the constitution of the air, cannot be doubted ; considering its great influence on valetudinary habits, and on diseases in general ; but particularly the *small-pox*, *epidemical dysentery*, and *ulcerated sore throat*, which not only become more frequent, but also more fatal,

fatal, as the air changes from a healthy to a malignant state.

The great plague in *London*, A. D. 1636, which lasted twelve years, was more or less fatal at different periods; viz. in eight years, one with another, two thousand people died yearly, and never less than eight hundred in one year; which shews that the contagion and its mortal effects, depended as much upon the state of the air as on the disease itself. This circumstance is still more clearly proved by the great disproportion of deaths in different weeks;—the number in one week increasing from one hundred and eighteen, to nine hundred and twenty-seven in the next; and in another, decreasing from nine hundred and ninety-three, to two hundred and fifty-eight; and from that number, then again increasing, in the very next week, to eight hundred and fifty-two*.

How

* Vide, *Grant on the Bills of Mortality*.

How diseases are produced or influenced by the obvious qualities of the air, it is difficult to determine, notwithstanding all that has been said on the effects of heat and cold, moisture and dryness, or the winds blowing from particular quarters at certain seasons, with different degrees of violence; seeing, that very sudden changes of the weather, from one extreme to another, do frequently happen, without producing any diseases of the malignant or epidemical kind. In like manner, a defect in the natural secretions, the violent passions of the mind, or errors in diet, do at one time occasion a fever, and not at another; which evidently shews that the first cause of diseases, whatever it is, acts more or less powerfully, as the natural temperament of the body concurs to increase or diminish its effects.

In the year 1746, during the winter season, a disease of the epidemical kind
was

was observed to prevail with great violence among lying-in women *. It began with a *diarrhœa*, followed by pains in the abdomen; the *lochia* did not appear at their due time, and the belly became hard, tense and painful; the head was also affected with pain, and sometimes a cough attended: About the third or fourth day after delivery, the breasts which usually about that time were filled with milk, became flaccid, and about the fifth or seventh day the patient frequently died.

Poor women delivered in Hospitals, were observed most subject to this disease; and in the month of *February* it became so extremely dangerous and epidemical, that scarcely one in twenty escaped it.

When the bodies of the deceased were opened, we are told, that *coagulum lactis* was found adhering to the exterior surface of the intestines, and *serum lacteum* contained in the abdomen. In some, the same kind

* Acad. des Sciences l'an. 1746, in 4to Mem. p. 160.

of fluid was collected in the cavity of the breast. The *stomach*, *intestines* and *uterus*, had undergone inflammation; and in many, the *ovaria* appeared diseased and suppurated.

The disease here mentioned seems to have been occasioned by a morbid affection of the *uterus*; and therefore, may be considered as very different from that hereafter to be described.

If the deaths of child-bed women depended upon the same causes as those which proved mortal in the small-pox, dysentery, and reigning fevers of the season, as there was great reason to suppose; this circumstance could never have been so truly known, as by examining the *Bills of Mortality*, and remarking how far the deaths under the article *Child-bed*, kept pace with those arising from the above diseases. But these bills are regulated with so little care and exactness, either in respect to the diseases themselves, or the numbers said

to

to die of them; that it would, from thence, be extremely difficult to determine this matter in a satisfactory manner. The yearly bills would by no means be sufficient to do it; because, although a greater than usual number might die in the epidemical season; yet, in the subsequent months, which make up the year, and which generally prove more healthy, the proportion of deaths might chance to be less; which, upon the whole, taking one year with another, would occasion but very little difference. I therefore regularly procured the weekly bills of mortality, during the whole time of the *Child-bed Fever*, in order to ascertain this matter more exactly.

In the months of *January*, *February* and beginning of *March*, the disease prevailed with uncommon violence, and was evidently *epidemical* in different parts of the town; although on comparing the number of deaths occasioned by it, with those

arising from the *epidemics* of the season ; I did not find that correspondence which at first I expected. However, the great difference in the number of women who died in the year 1770, compared with that of the preceding year 1769, or the subsequent year 1771, sufficiently and clearly proves that this fever was epidemical in the first : The number of deaths in the yearly bills of mortality for the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, under this article, were as follows : From December the 13th, 1768, to December the 12th, 1769, died in Child-bed, *one hundred and eighty-five*. From December the 12th, 1769, to December the 11th, 1770, died, *two hundred and seventy* ; and from December the 11th, 1770, to December the 10th, 1771, died, *one hundred and seventy-two*. So that in the year 1770, compared with the other two, the number of deaths was very near a *third part* more ; and as this increase of number did not happen uniformly, throughout

throughout the year, but was chiefly brought about in that half of it, which commenced with December, and ended with May; it is still more evident, that it could arise from no other cause than a malignant constitution of the air.

But altho' it was proper and necessary to mention the bills of mortality as a standard to which the reader might be referred; if I might be allowed to form a conjecture of the mortality of this disease, by what occurred to me, as well as several others of the profession, with whom I frequently conversed on this subject; I should have no doubt, but, at least, half as many more women died of it, as those mentioned in the bills of mortality; which instead of being set down under the article *Child-bed Fever*, were indiscriminately placed to the account of *flux*, *pleurisy*, or some other disorder.

It is a public misfortune that those bills still continue to be kept in such a manner

as to defeat their original intention, and to render all calculation in this matter vague and indeterminate.

Some years ago, an application was made to parliament by the company of parish clerks, setting forth the necessity of keeping an exact register of *births, burials, and marriages*, in all the parishes throughout England; instead of the present one including *christenings and burials* only, as confined to the parishes within the bills of mortality for the cities of *London and Westminster*. Had this application been duly attended to, and supported by parliament; many great and obvious advantages would have been the consequences of it; for the healthy or unhealthy state of the air at certain times and places, might from thence have been more exactly ascertained; as well as the increase of population, in which the strength of every nation consists.

HISTORY OF THE CHILD-BED FEVER.

SECTION I.

The History of the Child-bed Fever, deduced from the Symptoms of that Disease, taken from the living Body, and from an Examination of its morbid Appearances after Death; together with its Nature and Causes, as resulting from the preceding History.

AS it appears that women, after delivery, are more subject to fevers during a distemperature of the air; I have, previous to the history of the disease, subjoined a short account of the weather; with a view to shew how far the symptoms

symptoms might be increased or abated by its influence, during those months in which it was found most *epidemical*.

Air is so essential to the existence of all animals, that the want of it only for a few minutes is destructive to life. It not only acts constantly on the surface of their bodies by its pressure, but is also continually taken into the lungs by respiration ; and therefore, it is no wonder the health should be so variously affected by it, as its qualities are changed and become more or less salutary. The diseases which are *endemic* in particular countries, depend principally upon this circumstance ; but human bodies being also often affected by intemperance, and the passions of the mind ; those acute distempers which sometimes rage, for a time, with uncommon violence, among brute animals living in the open fields, and in a state of nature, are more evident proofs of its powerful influence. The first shews that the atmosphere of
particular

particular places, is at all times more or less unwholesome; the last, that the atmosphere in general, may become so for a time, from a variety of natural causes, which notwithstanding are so obscure, that they would scarcely be known to exist, was it not for their effects*.

A short account of the weather from October 1769, to the end of May, 1770.

The month of October commenced with fine clear weather, the wind in moderate breezes being chiefly at N. N. E. From the 5th to the 8th, it was bleak and cold, with some rain. From the 9th to the 13th, the days were clear and frosty, with foggy nights and mornings; the wind being first westerly, and afterwards shifting from W. to E. and then to E. N. E. From thence, to the 25th, moist and mild weather, the wind being variable; a day or two of frost then succeeded, and

E the

* Here, it is only a tribute due to merit, to apprise the reader of many curious and interesting discoveries on the properties of different kinds of *air*, lately published by the ingenious Dr. *Priestley*.

the month ended with misting rain and mild weather.

November began with mild weather, and some smart showers; till the 8th it was warm, moist and gloomy, the wind being chiefly at S. S. W.; the remainder of the month was extremely variable, the nights being frosty and the days sometimes clear and bright, and at other times overcast with clouds, attended with misting rain; the wind shifting to all points of the compass, but chiefly to W. S. W.

December commenced with frosty clear days and foggy nights, the wind being variable; to the 8th, the weather in general was clear, but sometimes foggy with misting rain, the wind being then chiefly at S. and E. S. E. with continual transitions from one extreme to another, viz. from a clear frosty air to cloudy damp weather with misting rain; and towards the end, frost with sleet and snow; the wind to the 22d being mostly at W. and S. S. W. and
afterwards

afterwards it blowed from the N. to the N. N. W.

January began with moist weather, and a thick atmosphere till the 4th, on which day there was a fall of snow, the wind being chiefly at W. N. W. and N. N. W; to the 11th, smart frosty weather, with large quantities of snow, the wind at N. N. E. and N. N. W. From thence to the 17th, it was fair and rainy, bright and foggy by turns; on the 18th, a cold frost began, with a large fall of snow, the wind at N. E; from thence to the 28th, mild, but variable, the wind being chiefly at S. or W. S. W. with moist gloomy weather, which concluded the month.

February began with fine weather, which continued to the 6th, the wind chiefly at S. W. from thence to the 8th, showers of rain and snow, with a frost, and the wind at N. To the 17th, changeable moist weather, the winds chiefly at S. or S. W. On the 18th, alternate showers

of hail, snow and rain; from thence to the 22d, variable; to the 25th, cold and bleak, with frost and some snow; the wind being stationary at N. N. E; to the end, the weather was cold, moist and cloudy, and the wind chiefly at S. W. and S.

March commenced with moist hazy weather, and a mild temperature of the air, with gleams of sun-shine, which continued to the 7th; the wind continually shifting. To the 14th, it was cold and gloomy, with considerable quantities of rain, the wind chiefly at N. E; from thence to the 29th, sharp frost, with severe cold winds, and alternately, large falls of snow, and showers of sleet and hail; the wind chiefly at E. N. E. This month ended with a thaw and some rain, the wind then blowing from the south,

April began with rainy weather, and heavy showers of hail and sleet, the wind chiefly at W. and W. S. W; from the 8th
to

to the 14th, cold, bleak, wet weather, with more snow and hail, the wind being stationary at N. N. E; from thence to the 20th, fine weather, but showery; the wind at W. and W. S. W. This month concluded with severe wet weather.

May commenced with excessive cold rainy weather, and frequent showers of snow and hail, the wind at N. N. E. and N. N. W. From the 4th to the 8th, it changed to the S. and W. S. W. with cold heavy rains; from thence to the 16th, the weather in general was fine, with some thunder showers; to the 25th, cold, unsettled weather, and towards the end of the month, it was moist and hazy, the wind being at E. N. E.

Hippocrates observes, that a mild rainy winter, succeeded by northerly winds in the spring, was dangerous to pregnant women *. Agreeable to this observation; in the winter months, when the Child-bed
Fever

* De Aëre, Locis et Aquis.

Fever began, the weather was observed to be remarkably mild and moist, with a warmer temperature of the air than was natural to the season; and this was succeeded by cold bleak winds in the spring, which were very unfriendly both to animals and vegetables.

About the 14th of March, 1770, a sharp frost commenced, with large falls of snow, and alternate showers of sleet and hail, the wind being at North-east: This weather, which was uncommonly severe, lasted till near the end of the month, at which time the malignant force of the Child-bed Fever seemed to abate; for altho' several women were affected with it at the *Hospital*, soon after that time; only two of them died, namely, *Ann Simms*, who was seized with it before the frost began, and *Ann Deuse*, who died the 29th of the same month, just at the commencement of the thaw. The attack of the cold fit was less violent, and the subsequent febrile symptoms

toms much more mild and favourable. The pulse was neither so quick or weak, nor was the sickness and vomiting so great; and instead of being followed as usual, with pains in the bowels and gripping bilious stools, the diarrhœa was moderate; the pulse rose in strength, and a warm sweat broke out all over the body. Besides, the secretion of milk was seldom interrupted, but continued plentiful; which, in general, may be looked upon as a favourable sign; at least, it shews that the violence of the disease, in such cases, is not so great as to take it away.

The History of a disease will always be most perfect, where so little has been done by art, that the operations of nature remain free and undisturbed. I shall therefore describe this Acute Fever peculiar to women after delivery, as it appeared when only assisted by medicines of the simplest kind.

When-

Pulse Whenever the quickness of the pulse brought on by the efforts of labour does not afterwards soon go off; it denotes something amiss in the habit, tending to kindle up a fever, which will always be found more dangerous, the sooner it invades the patient.

Commencement of the Fever The *Child-bed Fever* generally commenced about the evening of the second, or beginning of the third day after delivery, with a *rigor* or shivering fit. Sometimes it came on sooner, and at other times, though rarely, it has been known to appear as late as the fifth or sixth day.

manner of attack In many women, the attack was sudden, without any apparent cause or preceding indisposition; and soon followed by head-ach, restlessness, great sickness at the stomach, and bilious vomitings.

Early Symptoms Some had a bitter taste in the mouth; a nausea and universal languor; the coun-

countenance at first was pale, and often much altered, with a lifeless, dim state of the eyes, and an indolent pain over their orbits. These symptoms would sometimes foretel the approach of the disease, even before any coldness or shivering was perceived; but upon the whole, they may be considered as *anomalous*, for in general, the shivering preceded; and, allowing for the difference of age and habit of body, there are perhaps few diseases where the signs more regularly succeed each other, or where the morbid appearances after death, were found more exactly the same.

Now and then, this Fever seemed to be brought on by *catching cold*, or *errors in diet*, but much oftener by *anxiety of mind*; and therefore, women of delicate constitutions, who are very susceptible and continually agitated by hopes and fears, are, of all others, the most subject to it, and recover with the greatest difficulty; conse-

F

quently,

*Seeming
Causes*

most susceptible
 frequently, unmarried women, for obvious reasons, were very apt to be seized with it.

Cold fit
 The degree of the cold fit was very different in different women; in some, it would last near an hour, and was so intensely violent as to shake the body like an ague; others were only affected with a kind of thrilling sensation, or temporary chilness on the skin, which soon went off and returned by irregular periods.

expirations
 When the fit lasted long and was violent, I observed great anxiety and oppression at the breast, attended with a laborious respiration, but without pain; the patient was often affected with deep sighing, and complained of great weight at the heart.

vigor in his subjects
 In those who were young and of a strong habit, altho' the *rigor* was violent, its duration was sometimes short; and when the pulse rose in strength and fulness, and also became less frequent, it was succeeded by a better state of the countenance, and the oppression was soon removed

moved from the præcordia; altho' no eruption appeared on the breast or body, as I at first expected, till experience taught me otherwise.

In such cases, which unfortunately occurred but seldom, an universal glow was diffused over the whole surface of the body; the skin began to look more florid, and a free perspiration came on with manifest relief, altho' it was not always lasting.

On the contrary; those who were slightly attacked in the beginning, often had a return of the febrile accession, and were alternately hot and cold throughout the day, especially if the pulse did not rise, but continued quick and weak. In such, the fever did not seem to run high; the tongue being very little altered from its natural state, nay, sometimes it was even moist and soft, and the thirst very inconsiderable; yet, in the end, they did not

escape much better than others where it was more violent.

ibid Those of lax fibres and of an irritable, hysterical habit, were oftenest thus affected; or where the constitution was much weakened by anxiety of mind, or a preceding bad state of health.

Thirst. Sometimes the thirst was great, tho' the tongue had generally a better appearance in the beginning than is common in other fevers; for it was seldom black or very foul; but as the disease advanced, became white and dry, with an increase of thirst, and at last was harsh and of a brownish colour towards the root, where it was coated with inspissated, yellowish mucus.

perspiration That perspiration which proved salutary, overspread the whole body, attended with a moisture of the tongue and fauces, and also with an abatement of the thirst, sickness, and head-ach; but on the contrary, where the sweats were confined to

to the breast, neck, and face, tho' they often continued to the last, I never could observe the least mitigation of the symptoms; such partial sweats being the very effect of weakness and febrile anxiety, and not owing to any critical effort of nature.

So great and sudden was the loss of strength, that very few of the patients were able to turn in bed without assistance, even so early as the first or second day after the attack; and most of them continued helpless throughout the whole progress of the disease.

In the cold fit the pulse was quick and small, and the pulsations so feeble and indistinct, that sometimes I was hardly able to number them exactly. When the hot fit came on, tho' it was then more full and distinct, it still remained quick, but was seldom hard or strong, except in a few instances, where the patient was young and plethoric. In general, it would beat from

ninety

ninety to one hundred and thirty-seven strokes in a minute; varying by turns in strength and frequency from the lowest to the highest of these numbers; and vice versa, in proportion to the strength or weakness of the habit, and violence of the attack. An excess or defect of the natural secretions; the state of the mind, with many other accidental causes, will be found to produce great alteration in the pulse, both in respect to its strength and quickness.

memory state of stom. head. The sympathy between the head and stomach is so great, that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish which of them is first affected; but in this disease, the head-ach generally preceded the sickness at stomach; where the last was great, the patient vomited spontaneously; otherwise, the nausea continued till a purging began, and then usually ceased. The last was always most violent when nothing had previously been rejected by vomit.

CHILD-BED FEVER. 47

It is here necessary, to distinguish this febrile head-ach, from that which very commonly happens at the coming of the milk, when the body is costive; the first may be relieved by a gentle emetic, the last may be effectually taken away by a cathartic clyster, and laxatives.

The first attack of this fever is sometimes so violent, that in many respects, it resembles the *cholera morbus*; for, the pain, sickness, and burning heat in the stomach and bowels, are almost the same; and the bile, in great profusion, is discharged upwards and downwards; tho' in the first, the pulse is more quick and weak.

The fluid rejected by the stomach was yellow and ropy, and seemed to be a mixture of bile with a large quantity of gastric mucus; sometimes it was green and porraceous, but when the vomiting continued till the advanced state of the disease,

Diagnosis

Violence of first attack

Bile

Diagnostic

Substance vomited

disease, or returned towards the end; it was then watery and of a *blackish* colour.

vomiting The sickness at stomach was always much relieved by the vomiting; but *purging* when that abated, a violent purging came on, with severe gripings and pain in the bowels.

Diagnosis The vomiting attending this fever, should always be distinguished from that which often accompanies a quick labour from the violent efforts of the uterus; the last is not bilious, and soon goes off after delivery, without any bad consequence or subsequent fever.

Diarrhoea At the beginning of the diarrhoea, the stools were yellow, frothy, and mixed with mucus; sometimes they were greenish, but towards the end of the disease, at which time they often became involuntary, they were blackish, foetid, and more dilute, resembling the colour of *moor water*.

I never saw this fever appear with any degree of violence, but it was always attended with an obstinate diarrhœa; many of the patients had eight or ten evacuations in six or eight hours, which were followed by short intervals of ease; but neither the quickness of the pulse, the thirst, nor any of the febrile symptoms were in the least abated by the discharge, altho' it was so frequent and profuse.

In short; the diarrhœa was evidently *symptomatic*, and only procured a respite from the pain by evacuating the offending bile: It depended so very much upon the fever, that whenever it obstinately continued, the diarrhœa remained unconquerable; and even altho' that seemed to abate for a time, as in the case of *Juliana Thompson*, it often came on again with violence, and so continued till the patient's death, whenever there was a return of the febrile accession.

Diarrhœa
+

Diarrhœa
Symptomatic

+ These cases, in the ^Gdiarrhœa ^{Here.}were attended then, nearly resemble those published by me in my N. The diarrhœa however in my cases was not at all bilious. —

Here, the diarrhœa seemed plainly to arise from the effect of the fever, which increases the irritability of all the abdominal viscera, and renders them more liable to pain and inflammation. The immoderate secretion of bile, was also manifestly the effect, and not the cause of the fever; which by its acrimony and redundancy increased the purging, by stimulating the intestines to expel their contents. On the contrary, when the pulse abated in frequency, and the inflammatory symptoms subsided; the purging was proportionally less, and even when it continued longer than usual, it was not then attended with the same loss of strength, but appeared simply colliquative.

About the second day after the cold fit, they complained much of pain at the ^{pain at the} pit of the stomach, ^{it of the} darting down towards the navel, and sometimes from thence to the short ribs and sides: Now and then, as the disease advanced, some of them

had

had an acute pain under the shoulder-blade, which struck obliquely downwards and forwards, from the thorax to the stomach; these pains were always most violent and intolerable during inspiration, which became interrupted and desultory, or in these other words, they breathed with difficulty and as it were by jerks. Some had a cough, which generally was most troublesome in the decline of the disease.

*Shoulder
blade*

Cough.

In several, the belly began to swell about the third or fourth day, from the commencement of the fever, and became extremely tense and prominent, as in the case of *Juliana Thompson* and *Margaret Walker*, both of whom died. Whenever this swelling came on whilst the purging continued, and especially if it closely followed the pain, extending from the stomach to the navel; as far as I had an opportunity to observe, it was always a

*Swelling of
the abdomen*

mortal sign; for not one of them recovered who were thus affected.

Diagnosis. This morbid enlargement and tension of the abdomen supervening the pain at the umbilical region, should be distinguished from that accidental swelling of the belly from the confinement of air in the intestines, which sometimes happens by a sudden cessation of the purging; and which will soon go off without danger by the use of laxative medicines.

Countenance About this period of the disease, the patient had a wild, distressed, eager countenance, and a trembling hand: a local
Hand. *crimson colour* appeared in her cheeks; her
Colour. lips were of a *livid hue*, and her nostrils
nostrils. tense and expanded. When these symptoms prevailed with violence; neither art nor nature were sufficient to procure relief.

Lochia The *lochia* from first to last, were not obstructed nor deficient in quantity, neither

ther did the quality of this discharge seem to be in the least altered from its natural state; a presumption that the *uterus* was not at all affected. Of this circumstance I was convinced, by making considerable pressure above the *pubes* with my hand, which did not occasion pain; but when the same degree of pressure was applied higher, between the stomach and umbilical region, it became intolerable.

Pain
? -

Hence it appears, that the *uterus* is not originally affected, so as to produce this fever, neither does it usually suffer by sympathy, in proportion with the other parts, as will be more evidently shewn hereafter.

The secretion of milk was generally interrupted by the attack of the cold fit, and sometimes it was almost taken away; at other times it continued in a moderate degree for several days after, even 'till within a short time of the patient's death.

milk

+

A slight chillness usually precedes the coming of the milk, which is often mis-

+ Milk entirely wanting in Heg's Cases. taken

taken for that morbid shivering with
Diagnosis which this fever commences; but with a
 little care, it will not be difficult to distinguish the one from the other; for, the first happens before the milk is collected, and is usually followed by a plentiful flow of it; but the last, generally comes on after a secretion of that fluid is begun, which not unfrequently afterwards carries it off. From mistakes of this kind, I have sometimes been called in where there was no occasion; for when the disease was ripe, and many died; the least appearance of it was very alarming to child-bed women, and those about them. Indeed, when a slight degree of this morbid shivering comes on exactly at the time of the milk-fever, a very good judge might then be mistaken; but a due attention to the nature and violence of the symptoms which speedily follow, will soon set him right.

mistaken Now and then there was a little difficulty in making water, but this was merely
 ly

ly an accidental symptom, and not peculiar to the disease; for it often happens after laborious cases, where the neck of the bladder is slightly injured.

The urine was smaller in quantity than *urine* usual; when cold, it was generally reddish and high coloured at the beginning of the disease, and often without the least separation or sediment; but as it advanced, there was sometimes a whitish cloud in it, which floated near the surface, and when more crude and dense, sunk towards the bottom. It was also now and then of a whey-colour, with a whitish oily pellicle on the top; and when it deposited a sediment, it was generally chalky and not laceritious. But the appearance of the urine was continually varying, and afforded very little information in the cure; for in some of those where there was even a copious sediment, though the bark was immediately liberally administered, the fever returned and the patient died.

They

*appetite**sleep.*

They had but very little appetite for food, and no profound, natural rest; their slumbers being disturbed by frequent moaning and startings, and when they waked they seemed confused, and not in the least refreshed: they generally slept with the mouth half open, and their eyes were imperfectly closed.

Crisis.

A perfect *crisis* seldom ever happened in this fever; it takes so severe a hold of the constitution at its first onset, that the vital powers languish, and are unable to produce that salutary event. Indeed, the suppuration of the *omentum*, may be looked upon as a critical abscess, though of the unfavourable kind; for it seems to be an unsuccessful endeavour of Nature to free herself from the morbid cause; but, wanting sufficient strength to throw it to the surface of the body, it falls upon the interior parts, essential to life, and therefore unavoidably becomes mortal.

My mother

Some-

Sometimes there was a manifest remission of the symptoms, but where that was not attended with a universal sweat, or copious discharge of turbid urine, it was seldom lasting: in short, when the secretions are only partially promoted, the crisis is imperfect, and the patient is subject to a relapse.

*Remission
of symptoms
?*

Some of those who survived, recovered very slowly, and were affected with wandering pains and a paralytic numbness of the limbs, like that of the chronic rheumatism. Some had critical abscesses in the muscular parts of the body, which were a long time in coming to suppuration, and when broke, discharged a sanious ichor; as in the case of *Elizabeth Walters*. Others were affected by a slow remitting fever, with great loss of strength and dejection of spirits; and several were so helpless and enervated, that they had involuntary stools for a considerable time after the dangerous symptoms were over.

Recovery

Sequela

H

When

When the disease proved mortal, the
Time of Death patient generally died on the tenth or
 eleventh day from the first attack: The
 longest I have known any one survive,
 was *Juliana Thomson*, who lived fifteen
 days; and the shortest time of being cut
 off, was in the case of *Harriot Trueman*,
 who lived only five days. Most of them
manner of Death. had the clear and distinct use of their
 senses to the last, and generally expired
 calmly, without any apparent agony or
 convulsive struggle.

As they became more and more ex-
 hausted, and within a few hours of death;
 the pulse, which was exceedingly quick,
 and almost imperceptibly weak, at last
 was insensibly lost in a tremulous flutter.

Many authors, particularly the cele-
Theories of the Disease. brated *Baron Van Swieten*, and *Levet*, have
Van Swieten supposed that this fever was occasioned by
Levet. *metastasis*, or a morbid translation of the
 corrupted milk, or putrid obstructed
 lochia, to the brain, or to the contents of
 the

the thorax and abdomen; which there produced such diseases as were peculiar to those parts, viz. head-ach, vertigo and delirium in the first; and in the two last, inflammation of the lungs, or pleura; nausea and vomitings at the stomach, with a diarrhoea and pain in the bowels. Others again, with *Hoffman*, imagine that it arises chiefly from an inflammation of the *uterus*.

Hoffman

These have generally been assented to, as the most probable causes hitherto assigned; yet it will appear, from the following observations, that they are very exceptionable and inadequate, and not consistent with the true nature of the disease.

To quote a multitude of authors for no other reason but that of shewing their errors, would not only be useless but invidious: I shall therefore only consider the doctrine of those respectable modern writers already mentioned; and the more particularly, as their opinions, at this

*Doctines
Examined*

time principally prevail, and have in a manner superceded all the rest.

That the several circumstances which are supposed to relate to the cause of this disease may become more apparent; it will be necessary to consider when, and in what manner, the *milk* is strained off in the breasts, and what are its qualities when pure or vitiated; and also to attend to the nature of the *lochial discharge*.

About the third day after delivery, the patient is restless, and complains of a cold thrilling sensation towards the back and joins, succeeded by a feverish heat; the face becomes florid, the pulse more full and frequent, and at last the breasts begin to throb and enlarge, by what is usually called the coming of the milk. This slight commotion, or milk fever, which seems to arise from a change in the circulation, is generally terminated in the space of twenty-four hours, by a warm critical sweat, or if the milk is suddenly repelled;
by

by a diarrhœa, in consequence of which, the febrile symptoms gradually go off.

Van Swieten supposes, that this fever is also partly owing to an absorption of the *lochia*, which about this time becomes purulent.

Where milk thus secreted is not vitiated by a feverish heat of the body, or corrupted by remaining too long in the breasts, it may be absorbed and taken into the blood without any bad consequence; for milk being nothing but *chyle* exalted and rendered finer by passing through the glands of the breasts, and being the proper nourishment of all animals, it will easily mix with, and be assimilated into *blood*; and since every woman after delivery cannot suckle her child; Nature has so formed the lactiferous organs as to dispose of the milk in this manner, when pure, without injury to the constitution.

If ever, therefore, the *Child-bed Fever* is occasioned by a reflux of milk, that can
only

milk ?

only happen after it has been deprived of its balsamic quality, by too great a degree of animal heat, or by stagnating too long in its vessels: Whereas, this disease is sometimes so suddenly produced, and attended with such remarkable and instantaneous loss of strength, as appears by a history of the symptoms, that there is great reason to believe its first impression is made upon the nerves, or vital powers of the body; and that there is neither sufficient time for the secretion of milk, or for any morbid change of that fluid.

Levret observes, that this translation of milky matter usually happens, about a fortnight after the disappearance of the milk *; and *Van Swieten* asserts, that experience confirms this observation †. But could it only be satisfactorily proved, that such a translation of vitiated milk never happened

* *L'art des Accouch.* p. 150.

† *Van Swieten.* Commentar. in *Her. Boerhaav.* Aphor. Vol. iv. p. 610.

happened earlier than the time above mentioned; it would then sufficiently refute the opinion of those, who suppose it the principal cause of the disease in question; since I believe, no instance can be produced where it came on so late as the fourteenth day; for, notwithstanding what *Hippocrates* mentions concerning the wife of *Philinus*, who was seized with a rigor on the fourteenth day after delivery, followed with an obstruction of the *lochia*; her case does not appear to have been truly similar to that under consideration; a rigor being common to other fevers as well as that peculiar to Child-bed Women, and the *lochia* not being obstructed in this disease.

It cannot be doubted but the *milk* may become depraved by various causes. Eating or drinking things which are improper; exposing the body to cold air; the excesses of anger or fear, will often disturb

disturb the secretion of this fluid, and occasion it to stagnate too long in the breasts ; hence its natural qualities may be changed, so as to render it pernicious ; and consequently, if it should be reassumed into the mass of blood in this vitiated state, it will disorder the body, and create a fever ; which however, in general, is soon carried off by some critical evacuation ; as a *diarrhœa*, or a *miliary eruption*. But if it is too long retained in the lactiferous ducts, it much oftener brings on an abscess of the breast itself. Such a fever, therefore, is very essentially different from that under consideration ; the first being infinitely more mild in its symptoms, and for the most part void of danger, for I never yet knew one die in consequence of it.

Levret also has observed, that where the milk suddenly disappeared at the beginning of the disease, and afterwards soon returned, the patient was relieved. But,
whenever

whenever this circumstance happens with a mitigation of the symptoms, there is reason to believe it is owing to a cessation of the febrile cause, which no longer interrupts the secretion of that fluid, and which, therefore, will naturally return.

When the breasts subside, and the milk gradually goes off, or is suddenly repelled in those who do not intend to suckle; the *lochial discharge* may be observed to increase and become more fresh and sanguineous; and also continues for a longer time than in those who do. It therefore appears, that, at this time, a plethora prevails in the constitution, which may fall upon the interior vessels, when the milk does not freely pass through the glands of the breasts; or even should no milk be strained off; the want of it will dispose the habit to a plethoric state. For this reason, women, who do not suckle, are visited with a return of the *menfes*, even sometimes so early as in the fifth week after delivery; whereas,

*Effect of
nursing
the Lochia*

in those who give suck, they are naturally wanting for several months.

Hence also it is manifest, that the female organs, after a certain age, are so disposed as to prepare a larger quantity of blood than is necessary for the support and nourishment of the body; which, in the time of uterine gestation, is consumed by the foetus, and after delivery, by the child at the breast; but that this redundant quantity might not incommode the constitution, during the time she is not pregnant; provident Nature has ordered it off by the vessels of the uterus, once every month.

The milk, indeed, is not supposed to be strained from the blood; but as the separation of that fluid deprives the woman's body of so much *chyle*, which would otherwise be converted into blood; the consequence, in respect to her general habit, or the fulness of the vessels, will be exactly the same.

Prefuming

Prefuming therefore, that *suckling* after delivery, would lessen the tendency to inflammation and fever, by diminishing the fulness of the uterine vessels, as well as those of the contiguous viscera ; an order which had formerly been made by the governors of the *Westminster Lying-in Hospital*, at my request ; that every patient during her stay in the house, should suckle her child, was at this time, more particularly insisted upon. For, if the disease was occasioned by a translocation of milk to the interior parts ; it would then follow, that women, who had plenty of that fluid, and in whom it was freely discharged by suckling, would, of all others, be the least subject to it ; but even this caution was insufficient to secure them from the fever ; for many, who had plenty of milk and suckled their children, were also invaded by it.

*Fever attended by
tended eye
those who
nursed
those who
not - -*

But to come to *practical facts* : In many women, there was a plentiful secretion of

I 2

milk,

See Hay. milk, which continued till the fever was considerably advanced, and sometimes it lasted 'till within a day or two of their death; in some few, where the milk was either small in quantity, or totally deficient, no such fever appeared; and in those cases where it did, it generally came on before there was any want of milk; which therefore, was evidently the *effect* and not the *cause* of the disease.

Besides; if this fever was owing to a translocation of milk from the breasts, it would also frequently happen to women who wean their children at the end of seven or eight months, which is contrary to experience. The case mentioned by *Van Swieten*, of such a morbid absorption of that fluid, in a woman a whole year after delivery, in whose pelvis a *milky matter* was found, only proves what possibly may, and not what usually happens.

Indeed, from the most careful examination of the morbid appearances, in the
several

several bodies which were opened, I have the greatest reason to believe, that what has usually been taken for *coagulated milk*, lying on the surface of the intestines, is nothing but *pure matter*; owing to the supuration of the *omentum*, and therefore, of a peculiar kind; having a more white, thick and *curd-like appearance*, than that of common matter. As to what is called *serum lactis*, it seems to be only a purulent, whey-coloured fluid, collected in the cavity of the *abdomen*, by a *morbid transudation* from the inflamed *viscera*; or *lymph* become putrid by stagnating too long there, from a defect in the absorbing power of the lymphatic vessels.

The next principal cause assigned for the production of this fever, is an *obstruction* of the *lochia*, and a morbid translocation of that putrid fluid to the internal parts.

A due attention to the nature of that discharge from the *uterus* called *lochia*,
which

*Obstruction
Lochia, a
cause of
Fever.*

which is the natural consequence of delivery, will be most likely to discover, whether it can have any share in producing this fever or not.

As soon as a child is born, the *placenta*, which during pregnancy, served as a medium of intercourse between the mother and child, then becomes a lifeless mass without circulation or further use; and therefore, is soon afterwards expelled by the gradual contraction of the *uterus*. As the separation of this vascular cake from the womb, is observed to be more easy at the end of nine months, than in those cases where the birth is premature; this animal process may with reason be supposed analogous to the dropping off of ripe fruit from a tree.

The *lochia* therefore, is nothing more than a simple discharge from all those vessels which are torn asunder by the separation of the *placenta* from the *uterus*, and does not naturally partake of a sanious or malignant

malignant quality, as generally supposed; for all the circumstances attending it, exactly correspond with what is observed to happen after receiving a fresh wound in any part of the body; consequently, *pure blood* will first escape from those ruptured vessels, and afterwards a more dilute and colourless fluid, like the *serum*. About the third or fourth day the discharge generally becomes slightly purulent; and as the *uterus* contracts, and returns to its unimpregnated state, the orifices of the several vessels are gradually closed, and the *lochia* then totally cease.

The accurate and ingenious Dr. Hunter, by whose nice and indefatigable researches, anatomical knowledge has been so much improved, was the first who discovered that the exterior membrane of the bag, containing the child, called *false chorion*, is derived from the *uterus*; and as it peels off from thence like a kind of exuviae or flough,

~~it is~~
pure blood
merely, ?

flough, at each succeeding birth, he gives it the name of *membrana decidua*.

By means of the lochial discharge, the internal surface of the *uterus* is freed from the putrid remains of the false chorion, which dissolves and comes away in a fluid state; and since there is nothing in its quality but what is common to the digestion of a fresh wound; it is not rational to suppose it can produce a fever so destructive to child-bearing women; even allowing it to be obstructed.

I have often observed the *lochia* small in quantity, and at other times redundant, without any bad consequence; and this seems chiefly to depend upon the difference of habit in different women, and the lax or tense state of the uterine fibres; so that the indication of danger is not to be taken from the quantity of the discharge, but from the nature of the symptoms attending it; for, where there is no pain, inflammation, or fever, in the first case,

or loss of strength, in the last; it would be highly improper to direct medicines either to restrain or promote it.

Besides this error of prescribing remedies where none are necessary; there is another so prevailing in practice, and so pernicious in itself, that it deserves to be remarked, *viz.* that of giving *emmenagogue* or uterine medicines, as they are called, to promote the *lochia*; for those being chiefly of the heating kind, as *aloes* and the *pulv. e myrrh. c.* or else such as act by their powerful effluvia, as *assafætid*, *castor*, and the like; are so far from being proper, where there is an obstruction of this discharge, that they are manifestly injurious; and would be as dangerous to the patient, under such circumstances, as forcing medicines given in nephritic cases, during the height of pain and inflammation. In short, all irritating medicines are improper, in every painful or inflammatory affection of the *uterus*, and are therefore to

Treat

be rejected in favour of gentle evacuations, plentiful dilution, and a cooling regimen.

When the *lochial discharge* becomes foetid, it has generally been looked upon as a dangerous sign; but as this often happens without any bad consequence, I am inclined to think, it is rather owing to the admission of air into the cavity of the *uterus*, and the corruption of grumous blood contained there, than to any putrid disposition in the habit of body; however it will certainly be right, to promote the discharge of such confined *fordes*, as soon as possible; which may be effectually done, by the gentle alternate pressure of the hands applied to the region of the *uterus*, according to the method laid down by *Dusse* *.

Ruyfch supposed that the fluid found in the *abdomen*, like the washings of flesh, or corrupted *lochia*, was squeezed from

* Acad. des Science, l'an. 1724, hist. p. 51.

the cavity of the *uterus*, through the *Fallopian tubes**; but in all those who were opened, I never saw the least quantity of such a fluid in the *uterus*, nor could observe any thing to favour so improbable a conjecture.

When the *uterus* was laid open, it had, at first view, the appearance of a part disposed to become *gangrenous*; but this was owing to a considerable quantity of the *membrana decidua* or false chorion, adhering to its internal surface; for when I had wiped away this mortified slough, with a wet sponge, it was perfectly sound and in its natural state. In the case of *Ann Simms*, the *os uteri* was somewhat livid and blackish, but as her labour was difficult, this was probably owing to the violence sustained, and not to any tendency in the disease itself to produce such an effect; for, notwithstanding the discolouration of the part, it did not manifest the least degree of pu-

* Observat. Anatom. No. 84. p. 79.

trid dissolution, but preserved its cohesion and natural firmness. It therefore becomes necessary, not to regard any appearances as morbid, which arise from accidental causes, or such as are in themselves strictly natural.

The fever brought on by an *inflammation* of the *uterus*, has often been confounded with the Child-bed Fever: but those diseases are very essentially different, although they both require the same method of treatment.

When the *uterus* is inflamed, it often becomes gangrenous; the head is affected with pain, a *delirium* usually attends the fever, and the uterine region is so exceedingly tender as not to bear the gentlest pressure without intolerable pain: But on the contrary, in the Child-bed Fever, the head is seldom disordered, the *uterus* is not affected with pain, inflammation or gangrene, nor does a *delirium* usually attend.

Besides

Besides the general signs of an *inflamed uterus*, there are others more fully mentioned by *Ætius*, than any other writer, which particularly point out the affected parts. When the *fundus uteri* is inflamed, there is great heat, throbbing and pain above the *pubes*; if its posterior part, the pain is more confined to the loins and *rectum*, with a *tenesmus*; if its anterior part, it shoots from thence towards the neck of the bladder, and is attended with a frequent irritation to make water, which is voided with difficulty; and if its sides or the *ovaria* are affected, the pains will then dart into the inside of the thighs.

An *inflammation* of the *uterus*, which often arises from a greater degree of violence applied to this part than its natural structure can bear, will generally bring on an *obstruction* of the *lochia*; and on the other hand, an obstruction of the *lochia* may produce an inflammation of the *uterus*; but although such a local affection
may

may create fever ; it seldom proves mortal, without the inflammation is violent, and terminates in a gangrene : In the first case, the orifices of the vessels opening into its cavity are shut up, consequently, the discharge will be obstructed, and will not return till the tension is removed by bleeding, laxatives and plentiful dilution ; in the last, they are supposed to be constricted, and therefore, opiates and the warm bath, together with emollient clysters will be the most likely to afford relief.

SECTION II.

Practical Observations and Inferences arising from the History of the Disease, with the Methods most conducive to the Cure.

THE sudden change produced in the habit, by the effect of delivery, and that alteration in the course of the circulating blood, which must then necessarily happen from the contraction of the *uterus* after delivery, seem to be the principal reasons why the abdominal viscera are, at this time, so liable to *inflammation*.

When the pressure of the gravid uterus is suddenly taken off from the *aorta descendens*, after delivery; the resistance to the impulse of blood passing through all the vessels derived from it, and distributed to the contiguous viscera, will be considerably lessened; it will therefore rush into those vessels with a force superior to their

their resistance, and by putting them violently on the stretch, may occasion pain, inflammation and fever; particularly in the *omentum* and *intestines*, where they are numerous and most yielding; and this is more probable, because those arteries, before they enter the viscera, are divested of their strong external coat.

That such a change in the circulation does actually happen, is manifest from those faintings which sometimes follow a quick delivery; for, when the long-continued pressure of the uterus is removed; the blood, by gushing into the inferior vessels, will for a time, deprive the heart and brain of their usual quantity.

This contraction of the womb, also renders its vessels impervious to the blood which before passed freely through them for the service of the child during pregnancy; and consequently, a much larger quantity will be thrown upon the contiguous parts, which will still add to their distention, and
increase

increase their tendency to inflammation ; more particularly as the womb is abundantly supplied with blood, and receives a greater quantity of vessels in proportion to its bulk, than any other part of the body.

The immoderate secretion of *bile*, which commences about this time, in the Child-bed Fever, most probably arises from the same cause ; for, as the *vena portæ ventralis*, which brings blood to the liver, is rooted in the intestines, it will necessarily receive from thence a larger supply than before ; hence a more copious secretion ; as it is universally allowed, that the quantity of fluid strained off in any gland, will always be in proportion to the quantity and velocity of blood passing through it.

It therefore appears, that although this fever is attended with a preternatural secretion of bile, it ought not to be considered as one of the bilious kind ; for the great redundancy of that fluid seems

truly *symptomatic*, like that occasioned by pain and spasm in the nephritic colic, or other painful affections of the abdominal viscera.

At the attack of this fever, the vessels on the surface of the body, during the cold fit, are exceedingly constricted, as is evident from the paleness of the skin; and from this cause also, a greater quantity of blood will be driven to the internal vessels, which will still further increase the quantity of *redundant bile*. Agreeable to this observation, the bilious vomiting was generally most violent after the shivering fit, and in a great measure, in proportion as that was more or less violent; and even when it was abated, a return of the cold fit would often bring it on again, as well as the diarrhœa.

From this twofold change in the circulation, the vessels of the heart and lungs will also receive more blood than before; hence a difficulty of breathing, with anxiety

iety and oppression at the breast and *præcordia*, which are all relieved by the approach of the hot fit; that is, as soon as the heart re-acts and throws its blood from the centre to the circumference of the body; and when this cannot be effected, from its want of sufficient power; the blood will stagnate in the large contiguous vessels, and the patient will suddenly expire. Instances of this sort, though rare, have been known to happen, particularly in the cold fit of an ague, where the attack was uncommonly violent, or in diseases of the very destructive kind.

It therefore may be affirmed, that in general, every degree of *rigor* is followed by a degree of fever proportionate to it; from the re-action of the heart, which will always be greater or less according to the force impressed upon it by the effect of the cold fit; so that when this is violent and of long duration, the consequence is much to be feared; especially as nature, by the

febrile struggle, does not usually in this disease bring on a salutary crisis. As the heart now acts strongly, the momentum of the blood on the solids will be greatly increased, and will occasion tension, pain, and inflammation, which, if not soon removed, will end in a suppuration of the internal parts, and produce a *collection of matter* in the cavity of the *abdomen*, from which it cannot be evacuated, and therefore must necessarily prove mortal.

If the preceding reasoning be right, it will shew the necessity of attempting to diminish the cold fit, by the plentiful use of diluting fluids given warm; and also of hot applications to the extremities and surface of the body, to relax the cutaneous vessels, and invite the blood thither, so as to relieve those of the *viscera* from distention; for whatever is the cause of this Fever, its first impression seems to be made upon the nerves; which lessens their influence on the body, and prevents that
free

free and equal distribution of the blood necessary to a state of health.

To answer this intention, I would prefer an infusion of any of the grateful aromatic vegetables given warm, as that of mint or sage, rather than fluids of the spirituous kind; for, by their heating quality, they would increase the violence of the hot fit or subsequent fever; which is the principal thing to be guarded against; whereas, the former may be given at discretion, so as only to act during the time of the *rigor*, and will afterwards become of service in abating the febrile symptoms by their diluting and resolvent power.

This tendency to inflammation will be most likely to produce violent effects after delivery, when the abdominal viscera are in a tender irritable state; both from that change in the circulation already mentioned, which for a time, will render the woman's constitution weak and valetudinary, and also from the violent efforts of labour

Treatment

labour itself. That particular parts of the body are more disposed to inflammation, as the habit changes and becomes more irritable, is very evident from repeated observation; for instance, in cases of a stone in the bladder, the pain and inflammation are not continual, but only produced at particular periods from some accidental exciting cause, which at that time renders the affected part more sensible.

As long as the solids of the body continue in their natural state, they will allow of being stretched to a certain degree without pain; but as soon as they become inflamed or diseased, the least irritation or distending cause will bring on the most intolerable sensations; and this seems to be the reason why air or fœces contained in the bowels, at one time produces excessive pain, and at another none at all.

Hence also a complication of this fever, with the *pleurisy* or *peripneumony*; and sometimes a delirium, phrensy, or madness may attend,

attend, where the blood is more immediately determined to the brain, by anxiety, grief, or any cause which occasions the intense exercise of the mind. Three cases of this kind have occurred to me, in all which the disease was fatal; one of them was that of a baker's wife in *Westminster*, who remained well till the fourth day after delivery, but being suddenly disturbed with some religious scruples, she was violently seized with this fever, attended with a delirium, which carried her off; notwithstanding the uncommon attention paid to her safety, by an eminent physician, who was called in at my request, and with whom I wished to have consulted, but was accidentally prevented.

Dr. *Hales*, in his curious *Hæmæstatical Experiments*, clearly demonstrates, that the impulse of the blood on its containing vessels is exceedingly increased by the violent action of the muscles, particularly those of the abdomen; he also remarks,
that

that air retained in the lungs after a deep inspiration, has the same effect; and since the birth of a child is brought about by a combination of muscular forces, viz. from that of the uterus, assisted by the action of the very muscles already mentioned; namely, those of the abdomen and diaphragm, the last of which is pressed down on the inferior parts, at every deep inspiration; it becomes evident, that violent stress is laid upon the vessels of all the abdominal viscera, even in those labours which are strictly natural. Such are the effects of labour-pains on the whole vascular system, that the pulse which before was temperate and regular, then becomes full and frequent; the complexion florid, and sometimes the face is enormously swelled, by the violent efforts and strainings of the body. Till such a change is produced, women are not subject to this fever; for I observed, that those with child, who assisted the nurses in attending the
 sick,

sick, were perfectly free from it, even when it was most rife; but being delivered, several of them sickened soon after, and were affected with the same symptoms as the rest. May not this circumstance therefore, added to that change in the circulation already remarked; and also to the great sensibility and irritability of the habit, which is observed to prevail after delivery, concur as so many exciting causes to kindle up this fever? and also shew, why women are never subject to it before, *but only after delivery*; and more particularly, during an unhealthy constitution of the atmosphere: For if this disease was owing to the compression of the abdominal viscera in general, or to that of the *omentum* in particular, independent of any alteration in the air, as some have asserted; since this cause is the same in all gravid women, its consequences would also be uniform, and the disease would be equally frequent at all times of the year, instead of

prevailing with uncommon violence at particular seasons: Besides, if it was occasioned by the pressure of the gravid uterus on the contiguous viscera; it would necessarily happen before delivery, when that pressure was greatest; whereas, experience shews that it never appears, 'till after delivery, even in the *epidemical season*. In short, if pregnancy produced this fever; pregnant women would be subject to it, and delivery, by emptying the uterus, would not occasion it, but cure it; according to that universal axiom; take away the cause and the effect will cease.

The vital powers of the viscera being thus impaired, their several functions will be unduly performed, particularly the *absorption of lymph* from the abdominal cavity; hence a depravity and corruption of this retained stagnating fluid, and an increase of the pain and inflammation of those parts with which it is in contact; hence also a swelling of the belly, which
may

may be looked upon as a *true tympanites*. This morbid affection did not seem to happen from wind in the bowels; for, if so, it would have subsided by the frequency of the purging stools: it was evidently owing to the expansion of air generated in the cavity of the abdomen, arising from a putrid dissolution of the *omentum*, and from a corruption of the purulent fluid found there.

The dissection of bodies thus affected, confirmed me in this opinion; for, on cutting into the *abdomen*, a putrid *flatus*, intolerable to the smell, issued forth with a hissing noise, and the prominence of the belly immediately subsided. In general, there was but little air in the intestines, which were likewise almost empty of *feces*, and only contained a blackish fluid like that voided by stool, with particles of something which looked like fat after it had been melted and was become cold.

Considering the suppuration of the *omentum*, and the large quantity of purulent fluid found in the *abdomen* after death ; it is easy to see how a fever which was truly *inflammatory* in the beginning, may soon become *putrid*, by an absorption of that fluid ; which, like *old leaven*, will taint the blood, and by exciting a putrid ferment in the whole mass, will change its qualities into those of its own morbid nature.

The structure and use of the *lymphatics*, and their existence as a distinct system of vessels, numerously distributed to the several cavities of the body, as discovered and accurately described by Dr. *Hunter*, together with experiments made on quadrupeds, sufficiently demonstrate the reality of this absorption in the human body ; for it has often been observed, that altho' a large quantity of any warm fluid had been injected into the abdominal cavity of different animals in the living state, not a drop of it could be found after death.

Besides ;

Besides ; as the *liver* chiefly receives its blood from the intestines, the *omentum* and mesentery ; which is loaded with *oil*, absorbed by the veins from the two last parts, so as to render it fitter for the secretion of *bile* ; it will follow, that, as soon as the *omentum* is destroyed by a putrid dissolution ; the reflux blood carried to the liver, will be vitiated and corrupted ; and passing through that gland to mix with the general mass, will contaminate the whole, and produce a true *febris purulenta*. Hence general inflammation, adhesions of the lungs to the *pleura* ; a collection of putrid *serum* in the *thorax*, and matter under the *sternum* ; as in the case of *Harriot Trueman* ; and this appears the more probable, because, on enquiry of the patient's friends, I could not find that she had ever been in the least subject to any complaint in the breast. Moreover, as *bile*, of all the humours in the body, is most liable to be changed ; this fluid, tainted with blood brought from the diseased

omentum,

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omentum, will soon become putrid; and by its caustic acrimony create anxiety, sickness, and vomiting, with *tormina* in the bowels, and a profuse *diarrhœa*; so that it will now offend in quality, as well as in quantity; which last has already been sufficiently taken notice of. Before it is altered from its natural state, it seems in a great measure inoffensive to the stomach; because the fresh, inspissated bile of animals, given as a medicine, does not occasion the above disorders.

Thus I think it will evidently appear, that the symptoms of putrefaction were not originally such, but are produced by *metastasis*; not from that of vitiated milk or obstructed lochia, as generally supposed; but by the absorption of those *purulent fluids* stagnating in the abdomen, and by a morbid translation of matter from the *suppurated omentum*; and if ever the marks of putrefaction appear in the beginning, they are confined to the *primæ viæ* only; and

and arise from the tainted, rancid bile ; for a corruption of the blood and juices never happens till in the advanced state of this disease ; otherwise, such a putrefactive tendency in the habit would certainly exert itself sooner, and produce the disease before delivery ; especially in the *epidemical* season.

As soon as an internal mortification commences, the pain ceases ; which persuades those present that the patient is better ; but when this suddenly happens, after it has been excessive for a long time, and in an advanced state of the disease, without any critical evacuation which could prove salutary, it is a fatal and delusive sign ; and soon followed by a sinking, quick and intermitting pulse, swelling of the belly, a distressed countenance, with partial, faint sweats on the breast and face, and sometimes by a delirium, which shew that death is at hand.

That

That acute and incomparable practical physician *Baglivi*, was the first who described the *mysenteric fever* ; and observes, that latent inflammations of the viscera, are generally the cause of those fevers called malignant, and which often end in an abscess or gangrene of the affected parts, when *bleeding* has been neglected.

In painful or inflammatory diseases of the viscera, so great is the sensibility of the several parts, that the whole nervous system is easily drawn into consent ; hence a perversion or defect of their several natural functions. The heart will also be affected with a spasm, and not being able duly to perform its office, the pulse will become quick, weak and intermitting. This diminution of nervous influence on the affected internal parts, will also account for the great and sudden loss of strength, and shew why the *pulse* is *weak, quick and irregular* in the Child-bed Fever, instead of being hard and full, as in the pleurisy ;

pleurify ; and indeed, in most diseases of the abdominal viscera, the pulse becomes languid, and looses its firmness, before there can be any actual prostration of bodily strength ; as in cases of taking poison, or where a violent fit of the gout suddenly fixes upon any of the vital parts.

As it appears that women, so long as they remain with child, are not more subject to this fever, than others who are not pregnant ; it will follow, that a distemperature of the air, is not alone sufficient to produce it, until it is assisted by a change of the habit in consequence of delivery ; but as such a change is then common to all women, it is also evident, that in general, it may be endured without much danger, whilst the season remains healthy ; since scarce one in a thousand is then affected with it ; except from errors in diet, the passions of the mind, the effect of taking cold, or other manifest exciting causes ; consequently, it will always be found

most severe, whenever such concurring cases are most numerous, and in proportion as they are more or less dangerous in their own nature: Thus for instance, it will always be found most *fatal*, when most *epidemical*, that is, during a distemperature of the air; and least of all so, when it happens in healthy seasons, from accidental causes only. If at such a time, it should arise simply from taking cold, it is often terminated by a profuse, long-continued sweat; if from food offending the stomach in quantity or quality, the patient is often soon relieved by spontaneous vomiting or a diarrhoea; but on the contrary, if it is brought on by the passions of the mind, the event is different; for as the cause continues, so does the fever likewise; besides, in such cases, there is generally a defect in the natural secretions and excretions, and as nothing will weaken the vital powers of the body so much as distress of mind; a salutary

lutary crisis is then hardly ever known to happen.

It has also been observed, that the disease generally comes on about the second or third day after delivery, and that the sooner it attacks the patient, the more she is in danger. The sensibility and irritability of the body, which are always observed to be greatest at that time, seem to account for the first of these circumstances, and also shew why the fever is then most dangerous in the event; seeing, that this predisposing cause existing in the habit, will then most powerfully co-operate with, or increase the agency of any other external cause, which may chance to occur.

From the preceding history of the *Child-bed Fever*, joined to its morbid appearances already mentioned; the following conclusions may be drawn by way of recapitulation.

First, that it does not arise from a translocation of *corrupted milk*, nor *obstructed*

lochia ; secondly, that it is not owing to an inflammation of the *uterus* ; thirdly, that a certain *mechanical change* produced in the body by delivery, is the principal predisposing cause of the disease, and the reason why it is *peculiar to women after delivery only* ; fourthly, that whenever it is remarkably frequent and fatal at particular seasons, its proximate cause ought to be referred to a *noxious constitution of the air* ; which was still more fully proved by those cases, where the fever suddenly appeared in the epidemic season, without any other evident cause whatsoever. Fifthly, that it may sometimes happen in the most healthy seasons, from the *accidental causes* already enumerated ; and that in such instances, it is *least dangerous* ; sixthly, that the temporary change brought upon the habit, by delivery, may generally be endured without producing this fever, if none of the causes already mentioned

then

then happen to supervene; and also that women are more or less subject to the impression of all such causes, in proportion to the sensibility and irritability of their habit: Lastly, that it is not owing to the pressure of the *gravid uterus* on the *abdominal viscera* in general, or the *omentum* in particular; for if so, pregnant women would be more subject to it, than those lately delivered; which is contrary to all experience.

I have been more diffuse in what relates to the *pathology* of this disease, because, nothing will so much tend to establish a rational method of cure, as those observations which immediately result from the disease itself; the structure and use of the several affected parts, and their morbid appearances after death.

In the *Child-bed Fever*, therefore, as well as all those, which like it, are truly inflammatory, and uniformly produce *internal suppuration*; *bleeding* is the only remedy

medy which can give the patient a chance for life ; especially, as local inflammation, if violent, more frequently terminates by suppuration than any other means, where that has been neglected.

Indeed, from the strictest attention to the several symptoms and circumstances of this disease ; without shaping a *theory* to coincide with any particular method of practice ; the reasons for bleeding are as manifest and cogent as in the *pleurisy* itself, where an *empyema* is sometimes brought on ; for a collection of matter either in the thorax or abdomen are equally fatal.

The principal objections by those who are averse to bleeding, are as follow. Considering the loss of blood after delivery, and the subsequent lochial discharge, it would exhaust the patient's strength too much, especially as she is usually enjoined an abstemious diet for several days after ; that by lessening the strength, it would prevent

vent a crisis; increase the irritability of the body, and aggravate all the symptoms of this fever, or dispose it to become putrid. But those are groundless fears, and plainly contradicted by what is observed in practice; for the violence of the fever and the *symptomatic purging* arising from it, will be found to sink the patient's strength much more than the loss of blood; which, on the contrary, by removing the tension and pain from the bowels, which act as a stimulus and keep up the diarrhoea, will have the effect of an *anodyne*, and more safely abate that discharge than either opiates or astringents; both of which are highly improper at the beginning of the disease. *Bleeding*, by diminishing the quantity and force of the blood through the liver, and the larger internal vessels, will likewise lessen the *secretion of bile*, and therefore relieve the sickness and anxiety at stomach,

stomach, as well as the difficulty of breathing and oppression at the præcordia.

Besides; I am inclined to think that women after delivery, especially those who do not suckle, are able to bear the loss of blood much better than is generally imagined; for as the fœtus does not then demand its long-accustomed supply of nourishment, it will revert to the mother, and create a kind of temporary plethora, as already observed.

It ought also to be remarked, that neither *inanition* or *plethora* are natural to the body in a healthy state; that the one extreme is as hurtful as the other, and will produce irritation in as high a degree; for in plethoric habits, where the vessels are overcharged, and violently upon the stretch, all the symptoms of irritability are evidently increased. The same quantity of light which did not offend the eye in its natural state, becomes intolerable to it when inflamed; and the ear is not able to endure the least noise,

noise, without being disagreeably affected, after being seized with inflammation.

To proceed, *early* and *copious* bleeding, at the first onset of the disease, will prove much more serviceable than afterwards; thus, eight or ten ounces of blood taken away at first, will afford more relief than twice that quantity at different times. By the first method, the tension of the vessels is suddenly taken off, and the *pain*, *fever*, and *inflammation* are therefore abated. The whole vascular system being now relieved, a more free and equal distribution of the blood will follow, and the natural secretions being more duly performed, a *salutary crisis* may the rather be expected. On the contrary, where the vessels have remained long on the stretch, and being as it were overstrained, have lost their resisting power; all the above symptoms will be increased; and although blood should at last be drawn, if the inflammatory symptoms have run high, and matter has begun to form in

the *omentum*, or any of the vital parts, from which it cannot be evacuated; it is then too late to expect relief; for the disease must necessarily become fatal, both by a dissolution of the parts essential to life, and by a confinement of that purulent fluid, which will not only corrupt and destroy the surrounding parts, but by its absorption will soon taint the whole fluid mass; so that altho' bleeding in the beginning, is the principal remedy to be depended upon, it will seldom prove of service after the *second* or *third day* of the attack; and if directed still later, will only further exhaust and enfeeble the patient, and hasten her end.

Considering the languid state of the patient, and the weakness of the pulse, even in the beginning of this fever, I was surprized to find that the inflammation had sometimes run so high and made so rapid a progress, as to produce matter in the abdomen, so early as the *fourth* or *fifth day* after

after the first attack ; as will appear in the case of *Harriot Trueman* ; which fully proves the necessity of bleeding *early, or not at all.*

Practitioners, from a scrupulous attention to their reputation, are generally sparing in the application of such remedies as have been doubted in their good effects, by those of the profession, or even where vulgar prejudices have been violent in opposing their use. It is no wonder therefore, considering the weakness of the pulse, so remarkable in this fever, together with the objections already mentioned, that *bleeding* should have been directed with an uncommon degree of caution : for if blood was drawn at all, it was only in the most trifling quantities, and seldom till the decline of the disease, where every thing else had been tried in vain ; and consequently, where *matter being formed*, neither that evacuation, nor any other human means, could possibly avail. Thus, the misapplication of this remedy, plainly appears to have been the

reason why it was not sooner adopted as safe and beneficial.

In short, as no *purulent matter* is ever formed without a *preceding inflammation*; and as no means have hitherto been found so effectual in abating inflammation, as *bleeding*, *laxatives* and *plentiful dilution*; those, who cannot see the absolute necessity for their use, must certainly shut their eyes on all conviction.

As the cure will be found to depend principally on the seasonable loss of blood; it will be requisite to regard all such indications as may be taken from the state of the *pulse*, and to lay down such rules and cautions as particularly relate to this circumstance.

Nothing will so clearly point out the time when this remedy ought to be directed, as a previous acquaintance with the natural state of the pulse, which is found to vary exceedingly in different habits of body: A difference in the size and distribution

bution of the artery constituting the pulse will also occasion very different impressions on the finger, in regard to its strength or weakness; consequently, it ought to be alternately felt in each arm of the same person. The general habit, age, and manner of living, will also afford great information in this particular; for instance, if the patient is young, and has previously enjoyed an uninterrupted state of health, with a keen appetite and good digestion; when the pulse in such a person seems to sink in the very beginning; such a sudden alteration arises from oppression, and not weakness, and requires immediate loss of blood; particularly, if no profuse evacuation has preceded, such as hæmorrhage, diarrhœa; or long abstinence, anxiety of mind with want of rest, or great bodily fatigue. On the contrary, if she has been of a valetudinary, hysterical habit, with lax fibres, a bad digestion and pale aspect; a languid pulse, with such appearances, may

may reasonably be imputed to a real want of bodily strength rather than oppression ; and consequently, bleeding ought to be omitted.

We are also told, that on compressing the artery at the wrist, with the finger, if from being small and apparently weak, it suddenly becomes more strong and renitent; we may be sure it is oppression, and not weakness, which then prevails: this, however, I think is not an opinion well founded ; for whether the artery beats languidly from real weakness, or the diminished impulse of the heart, or whether the action of the arterial system is overcome by too great a plenitude of the vessels ; the effect will be nearly the same in both cases, and the artery will act weakly on the touch.

The degree of strength will be better known by attending to the more obvious signs of strength or weakness, and by regarding the slowness or frequency of the pulse ;

pulse ; for, in proportion as the bodily strength is exhausted, it increases in frequency ; and on the contrary, when the strength remains unimpaired, the number of pulsations are proportionably less ; but being both more full and strong, the circulation is then more uniformly carried on than when the artery beats quicker ; for the free and equal distribution of blood through its vessels, does not depend upon the frequency of the heart's contraction, but on the degree of strength and energy with which it acts at each pulsation.

But the most secure way of proceeding in doubtful cases, will be to feel the pulse during the time that blood is flowing from the vein ; if its strokes become more strong, ample and free, the quantity to be taken away may be increased ; but if it sinks and loses its equality, the bleeding orifice should immediately be closed. However care is to be taken, lest we are imposed upon by that languor of the pulse,
brought

brought on from the compression of the artery, by an over-tightness of the ligature round the arm.

It was necessary to be more particular on this head, as there is great difference between *nature oppressed*, and *nature exhausted*; and as the safety of the patient principally depends upon a true distinction between a real want of strength, and that which is only apparent.

Without we are previously acquainted with the natural state of the pulse, and its number of strokes in a minute, when the body is in health; but little information can be had when we are told that it beats a hundred and twenty, or any certain number of strokes in a minute, in the time of a disease. I have therefore, in the history of the cases which follow, rather chosen to signify the degree of feverish heat, by the general terms of weak and strong, quick or slow, as applied to
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the pulse, than by mentioning the precise number of its strokes in a minute.

From these preceding general observations, the indication of cure is to be taken: Hence it will follow, that *bleeding* ought to be directed at the very onset of the disease; secondly, that it will be necessary to diminish the violence and duration of the *cold fit*; thirdly, that the redundant, *corrupted bile* is to be evacuated and corrected as soon as possible; fourthly, that the *diarrhœa*, when excessive, ought to be restrained by emollient, anodyne clysters, and gentle sudorifics, or even by opiates and mild astringents, when the patient's strength begins to sink under the long-continued discharge; and lastly, that where the signs of *putrefaction* or an *intermission* of the fever appear; that antiseptics and the *peruvian bark* may be administered.

The choice of remedies is often a matter of great difficulty, even to those most

converſant with the nature of diſeaſes ; and after that is determined, it is not ſo much the medicine itſelf, as the application of it which renders it truly ſalutary ; for as things derive their value from their proper uſe ; ſo efficacious medicines injudiciously adminiſtered, like bleſſings perverted, are of all others, the *moſt dangerous* ; ſince whatever is powerfully good when properly given, will become as powerfully bad, if miſapplied.

As it is of great uſe to diſcover by a fair trial, what medicines are principally to be depended upon in the cure of particular diſeaſes ; ſo it would be highly ſervicable if thoſe in practice, conſcious of their own upright intention, would alſo venture, candidly to point out ſuch methods and medicines, as they had found either *uſeleſs* or *prejudicial*.

In general, I think too much is attempted by medicines ; and as their proper application requires much ſkill, ſo it
ought

ought no less to be deemed true medical knowledge, to determine when it is better to stand still, and watch the operations of Nature, rather than to proceed in the dark, and run the risk of thwarting her salutary endeavours : By such means some diseases either become tedious in the cure, if happily they are cured at all ; which, in a manner left to themselves, or treated by simple remedies, would perhaps be terminated more favourably ; especially where the habit of body is good, the viscera sound, and the natural secretions neither greatly defective nor perverted.

Nothing can be more blameable than that precipitate and desultory method of flying from one medicine to another, at the appearance of every new symptom ; without waiting a sufficient time to observe the effect of any ; it is indeed prescribing for the *symptoms only*, instead of the cause of the disease from which they spring ; and is not acting more rationally

than he who should attempt to clear his garden of weeds by plucking off their leaves.

In regard to the loss of blood, the quantity to be taken away is not so much to be determined by its appearance, as by the degree of pain, fever, and difficulty of breathing; for its *siziness* is not uncommon in *pregnant women*, even in a state of health; and in diseases of the inflammatory kind, it seems to be the consequence, and not the cause of inflammation; for the first-drawn blood is seldom ever so fizy as that taken away after the continuance of the fever.

When the patient is young and plethoric, the pulse full, the thirst great, the skin dry, and the urine high coloured; she may lose eight or ten ounces of blood, in the beginning, with great safety and advantage; and a smaller quantity may afterwards be repeatedly taken away, in proportion to the violence of the symptoms.

Large

Large draughts of warm tea, or any other diluting liquor may then be given, and afterwards, bladders half full of hot water may be wrapped in flannels and applied to the soles of the feet, the axillæ and sides; in order to lessen the violence of the cold fit, and to keep up the circulation in the extremities and surface of the body, where it is most languid.

One would have imagined that the *warm bath* bid fairer to answer this intention than any thing else, as it acts like a universal fomentation applied to the surface of the body; and the rather since it has been found to procure almost instant ease in other disorders of the bowels; but to the confusion of all theory, in those cases where it was tried, it by no means answered my expectation; and from what I could learn, succeeded no better with others; for the greatest part of those died for whom it was directed: This however in some measure might be owing to want of bleeding, which

which was generally neglected in the beginning; or because, like that, it was made use of too late, viz. after the *formation of matter* in the abdomen.

Upon the whole, the warm bath, by first acting as a resolvent, from an absorption of the aqueous particles into the blood, will soothe the nerves, relax the skin and enlarge the pores, and therefore, will tend to promote a free perspiration, without heating the body; and as I am still inclined to think favourably of it, when seasonably applied after bleedings, could wish to recommend it as a remedy which deserves further trial.

When it is thought necessary, a bathing tub near two parts full of warm water, may be placed at the patient's bed-side, into which she may be gently lifted, and suffered to remain for ten, fifteen minutes, or longer if she does not grow faint: when taken out, a clean, warm sheet may instantly be applied all over her body, to
sponge

sponge up the moisture ; after which, a loose flannel gown, long enough to come down to her feet, may be put on warm next the skin ; and draughts of any thin diluting fluid may then be given in bed, to promote a free perspiration. The bath should only be of a temperate degree of heat, otherwise, instead of relaxing, it will crisp the fibres of the skin, and defeat the very purposes for which it was intended.

To evacuate offending bile from the stomach, nothing proved more effectual than the following *emetic* :

Rx. *Tart. emet. gr. iiss*
Aq. alex. simp. ℥iss
Oxymel. Scillit. ℥iii misce.

It acted much sooner than *ipecacooanha*, and did not bring on such intolerable and long-continued sickness after its first operation ; which perhaps might be owing to a more perfect solution of the antimony by the acidity of the oxymel ; it also seems

to possess a febrifuge quality, and disposes the patient to sweat; but this might probably be owing to what is common with other emetics, which produce such an effect by agitating the body.

When the nausea and sickness are violent, the vomit should be weaker; but if the stomach is scarcely affected, it may then be wholly omitted, and a *gentle laxative* given after bleeding, which, will procure a free discharge of bile.

Bleeding ought always to precede the emetic for reasons already given; and also because the abdominal viscera will suffer less from the efforts of vomiting when the vessels are more empty.

After the greatest part of the bile has been rejected, either by a spontaneous vomiting or the emetic draught; the putrescence, or rancid acrimony of what remains, should also be corrected. Acefcent vegetable juices seemed most likely to answer this intention; as those of
oranges,

oranges, lemons, &c. I therefore, at first directed them, in large draughts of weak tea, or barley-water; but such was the tenderness and irritability of the intestines, that, by the continuance of this method, the patient would soon have been purged to death; and consequently they were immediately laid aside: we also tried the *saline mixture*, where the acid was exactly neutralized, and which, on many accounts, promised fair for a useful medicine; but that likewise proved so purgative, that it could seldom be safely continued without the addition of *sperm. ceti* and *gum. arab.* which rendered it more soft and friendly to the stomach and bowels; although even this alteration was not always sufficient to remedy the inconvenience complained of.

The following draught, which is purposely directed in a smaller quantity than usual, may be given every four or five hours, or at any time as occasion requires.

Q

R. *Sperm.*

R. *Sperm. Ceti*

Mucilag. Gum Arab. aa ʒss bene

tritris & subactis, sensim adde

Succ. Limon. ʒss, cum

Sal. Absinth. saturat.

Aq. Cinnamom. Simp. ʒi

Syr. balsamic. ʒi, misce.

The saline mixture given in a state of effervescence has sometimes been known to stop the most violent bilious vomitings, where every thing else had been tried in vain.

The frothing or conflict, which arises on mixing the acid and alkali, seems more properly ebullition than fermentation; yet, there is reason to believe that the effect of this medicine given as above, is produced by something similar to what the Chymists call *Gas Sylvestre*, or the effluvia escaping from fermenting liquors, which will sweeten and restore flesh that was become putrid and stinking.

So

So powerfully antiseptic is this *subtile gas*, that we are told, the plague at *Marseilles* was stopped by its influence; for that dreadful calamity suddenly ceased soon after the *vintage*; owing, as was supposed, to the vapours arising from the vast quantities of *fermenting new wines* made there.

Where this fever arises from the violent passions of the mind, and attacks a patient of a plethoric habit, attended with a *delirium*; an emetic would be very improper: half an ounce of lemon-juice, in a tea-cup full of water, may therefore, be given; upon which, a scruple or more of the sal absinth. dissolved in the same quantity, may be drank immediately after; so as to produce an effervescence in the stomach, from which none of the subtile effluvia can escape; and therefore, it will still more effectually answer the intention of correcting the corrupted bile, especially if the alkaline salt is allowed to predo-

minate; for the process of sweetening and purifying *rancid train oil* depends chiefly upon its antiseptic principle.

This mixture will also evacuate gently by stool, which is more necessary, where no emetic has previously been given.

Those who direct medicines in this disease are extremely divided in their opinion concerning the diarrhœa; being in doubt whether it is *critical* or *symptomatic*. An evacuation happening so early as to usher in the disease, cannot properly be considered otherwise than symptomatic, as I have already endeavoured to shew; but wherever the case appears perplexing, the best and surest way will be to keep a watchful eye on the patient; if she is much relieved by the appearance of this, or any other discharge, it never ought suddenly to be suppressed; but on the contrary, if the symptoms, which before prevailed, either continue without mitigation, or are aggravated; and above all, if her strength
begins

begins hourly to sink and decline, such an evacuation should speedily be restrained or totally taken away, if it is in the power of medicine to do it ; without losing time in making distinctions which are more nice than useful: But however simple and obvious this method may appear, it has not been sufficiently attended to.

When the diarrhœa is *truly critical*, which is seldom the case, it commences later ; the stools have more consistence, and are of a yellowish hue, the belly is soft, the appetite and sleep return, and the patient is much relieved : on the contrary, in the symptomatic diarrhœa ; the stools are black and slimy, at last becoming watery, and sometimes of a dark olive-colour, or like that of rusty iron ; the thirst and fever continue, and the belly is tense and painful.

But altho' the diarrhœa is not strictly critical, yet it manifestly affords relief in the early state of the disease, and therefore ought not to be stopped by *opiates* or *astringents*,

gents, which are highly injurious, especially in strong plethoric habits, where bleeding has been neglected: By constipating the bowels, they will concentrate the fordes collected there; and if the purging does not return; great oppression at the stomach will follow, with an increase of thirst, sickness and nausea: In short, whenever these medicines are thus unseasonably administered, they will always be attended with the worst consequences, and an aggravation of all the feverish symptoms, as I have had frequent occasion to observe.

On the contrary, when the body is kept laxative, the intestines are unloaded of their putrid contents; the sickness and oppression are relieved, and the fever considerably abated.

Emollient clysters prepared from fresh animal substances, should next be frequently administered; and the longer they remain with the patient, so much the better, as they will then more effectually cherish the
bowels

bowels by their gentle warmth and relaxing vapour, and act as an internal fomentation to the whole abdominal viscera ; besides, by being absorbed, they will dilute the blood and become powerfully resolvent.

Seven or eight ounces of chicken or beef water, or a weak decoction of chicken guts, without salt or any other addition, will answer the purpose extremely well ; but all such clysters should only be given milk-warm, and in a small quantity, otherwise they will distend the intestines, and by creating pain will soon be forced away.

Whenever the bowels are affected with pain, *opiates*, after evacuations, are best given in clysters ; being then immediately applied as it were to the naked nerves of the affected part ; hence they diminish the irritability of the intestines, relieve pain, procure sleep, and are less liable to affect the head, than when given by the mouth : thus, gr. xxx of the *tinct. thebaic.* may be added, as occasion requires.

Clysters

Clysters of the cathartic kind, are also necessary before the use of purgatives, when the patient has been long costive; for where the last have been given and do not readily pass off; severe gripings and tormina will follow.

Some are so timorous, that they will not venture to give *laxatives* 'till the fourth or fifth day after delivery, lest they should check the *lochial discharge*, or bring on a dangerous purging; but these are unnecessary cautions; for I never knew the lochia interrupted, nor any diarrhoea brought on by their seasonable and proper use; but on the contrary, the last will often suddenly happen, where the body is suffered to remain too long costive, in consequence of the intestines being over-distended with the indurated fœces, which create pain, and stimulate them to expel their contents.

The head-ach, a delirium, or fever, are sometimes brought on by omitting the use
of

of laxatives, which may be given with safety at any time, but are indispensably necessary about the second or third day after delivery; especially in strong habits, where the patient does not intend to suckle her child. In short, the more the body is kept cool and temperate, by a *solutive regimen*, the better chance she will have to avoid a fever, and the more regularly will all the natural secretions and excretions be carried on.

The following laxative mixture, which is extremely gentle and pleasant, may be directed in the quantity of two spoonfuls, or more, every two or three hours, till it produces an effect.

R.

Ol. Ricini, cum Vitel. Ovi solut. ℥i

Magnes. alb. ℥ii

Mann. calab. ℥iii

Aq. Hyssop. ℥viii fiat Mistura.

As soon as the stomach and bowels are sufficiently emptied, the following *antimo-*

R

nial

nial powder may immediately be administered ; but sometimes it proves violently irritating, even in very small quantities, and will produce a dangerous superpurgation if not managed with the greatest caution ; if this should happen, five drops of *thebaic tincture* may be occasionally added to each dose of the julep in which it is to be given.

R.

Tart. emet. griss

Magnes. alb. ʒi

accurate contere et fiat pulv. in sex portiones dividendus, quarum sumat unam 4^{ta} quaq. hora, vel subinde pro re nata, cum Cyath. Julep. sequentis.

R.

Aq. Cin. simp.

Menth. v. simp. aa ʒiv.

Syr. Croci ʒiii misce et fiat Julepum.

When the first or second dose of the powders produces no sensible effect, it ought
to

to be given oftener, and in a larger quantity 'till it either creates a *nausea* or *gentle perspiration*; without which, it seldom procures relief. They should then be given by longer intervals, otherwise they will be apt to weaken the patient too much; however upon the whole, I know nothing better than *emetic tartar* in very small doses, with the addition of an *opiate*, if necessary, more particularly after profuse evacuations; for it not only seems to combat the fever, but much more safely and effectually restrains the diarrhœa than astringents; by promoting perspiration and exciting a nausea at the stomach, which in some measure, *inverts* the excessive peristaltic motion of the intestines, and prevents their frequent discharge.

When the patient was much reduced by a return of the evening paroxysm, attended with chillness, wandering pains, dejection of spirits, and a torpor and coldness of the extremities; the third part of a

R 2

grain

grain of this medicine, given about an hour before its approach, afforded sensible relief, by producing a gentle sweat.

This sort of perspiration may be moderately encouraged by plentiful dilution with weak tea; or if the purging is violent, with rice-water, which generally agreed better with the patient than any thing else: But the sweats excited by a heating regimen, which stimulates the solids and increases their action on the blood, are highly prejudicial, and often destructive to the patient; as well as those brought on by an immoderate quantity of bed-cloaths, or keeping the room too hot and close: For, if those in perfect health soon grow faint and languid, when deprived of fresh, pure air; the same effect in a much greater degree, will necessarily happen in the body, when weakened and oppressed by a disease.

Whenever the weather is intemperately hot; the fresh air should always be allowed

ed

ed to breathe in at that part of the bed-chamber most distant from the patient; which will gradually diffuse itself around, and revive her exceedingly, without the least danger of catching cold.

When the bowels are stripped of their mucus, they become so exceedingly tender, and the stools are so frequent, that she will soon sink under the discharge, if medicines of the irritating kind are any longer continued. The rice-water, used for common drink, may now be given with the addition of *gum arabic*, in the proportion of an ounce to a quart; and where the pulse is feeble and the patient much exhausted, a common spoonful of brandy may occasionally be added to that quantity rather than wine, which is apt to turn sour on the stomach, and to occasion eructation and pinchings in the bowels, with an increase of the diarrhœa.

Nourishment that is light and simple should now be given often, and in small
quan-

quantities : Beef or chicken-water, poured from the dregs, after the fat has been taken off the surface, and gently boiled with ground rice, and the addition of a stick of cinnamon, was found to agree with the stomach, and is extremely soft and friendly to the bowels, as it will supply them with artificial mucus, and nourish the body at the same time.

Whenever the strength is evidently perceived to sink under the excess of the diarrhoea ; three grains of the *pil. e styrace*, or the following bolus may be given at discretion, with a spoonful of simple cinnamon-water, or a very small quantity of any other grateful fluid ; for, in such cases, I observed, that medicines in a solid form are the longest retained, and therefore, most eligible.

R.

Pulv. e Bolo comp. cum Opio Di

Syr. e Cort. Aurant. q, s, ut fiat Bolus.

Should

Should the discharge notwithstanding continue obstinate, with severe pains in the bowels; clysters, prepared with jelly of starch and the yolks of eggs, in equal proportions, and dissolved in a sufficient quantity of rice-water, with the addition of thirty or forty drops of *thebaic tincture* may be administered by intervals, as occasion requires, and will often procure immediate ease.

The progress of this disease is frequently so rapid, that there is not sufficient time to wait for a regular or distinct intermission, as in other fevers; and therefore, if the *bark* is given at all, that must be done without hesitation, at the very first favourable opportunity.

It was observed, that this disease becomes a true *febris purulenta* in its decline, from the absorption of corrupted fluids stagnating in the cavity of the abdomen, altho' it was strictly inflammatory in the beginning; so that the *putrefaction*
at

at this time existing in the habit, like the fizziness of the blood, the bilious vomiting, and diarrhoea, is truly symptomatic, being manifestly the consequence and not the cause of this fever.

Indeed, there is reason to believe that very few diseases are putrid in the beginning; and that all, or most of them, have a tendency to become so towards their conclusion; when the vital powers of the body are diminished, and its juices vitiated by an excess or defect of their natural motion.

Here it were to be wished, that the efficacy of that sovereign remedy, the *peruvian bark*, might secure the patient from danger; but both reason and experience, as well as the very nature of the disease itself, in a manner exclude such hopes of relief; for, altho' its liberal use might possibly be sufficient to destroy the putrefactive tendency begun in the body, by the absorption of the corrupted fluids;

yet

yet the large quantity still remaining in the cavity of the abdomen, from which it cannot be evacuated, must necessarily prove destructive! However, as we cannot always be certain when matter is formed, all possible means should be tried to prevent it; and the bark ought to be given at all events, in large doses, often repeated.

It has been feared, that the use of this medicine might suppress the *lochia*; but I am assured from repeated experience, that it may be given to women after delivery, with the greatest safety whenever necessary; for, I never could observe it produced any bad effect, or diminished that discharge; but on the contrary, often altered its quality for the better; and also rather seemed to increase its quantity, especially in women who were weak and delicate.

Sometimes the bark increased the purging, and even brought it on again after it had ceased; in such cases, it was neces-

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fary to join five grains of the pulv. e bolo comp. cum opio, with each of the following draughts :

R.

Cort. Peruv. pulv. ℥i

Aq. font. lbii leni igne coq. ad demid. & sub finem adjice

Fol. Rosar. rub. sicc. ℥ii, cola.

R.

Hujus colat. ℥iss

Extract. peruv. Cort. moll. ℥i

Aq. Cinn. spt. ℥iii

Confect. Alkerm. ℥i. fiat haustus alternis horis exhibendus.

When the first draught was found to purge too much, I sometimes directed the following :

R.

Cort. Peruv. ℥i

Granat. ℥iii

Aq. lbii ad demid. coq. & cola.

R. Colat.

R.

Colat. ʒiſs

Tinct. Cinn. ʒii

— *Thebaic* gtt. v.

Confect. Alkerm. ʒi f. *haustus.*

Blifters have feldom been applied in the cafes of lying-in women, on account of their feverity, eſpecially from the fear of that tormenting diſorder the *ſtrangury*; but if, as many imagine, they produce their good effects by a powerful ſtimulus, and by raiſing an inflammation on the ſkin, rather than the diſcharge they occasion; the application of *ſinapiſms* would then effectually answer the purpoſe, without any danger of that complaint, and therefore, will deſerve the preference to *blifters* prepared with *cantharides*; tho' I have not yet ſeen them ſufficiently tried to ſpeak from my own experience.

Tho' we are told that blifters are improper and injurious, till the fulneſs and frequency of the pulse ſubſides; yet I

would wish it ever to be remembered, that, whether we endeavour to relieve the patient by this or any other means, it must be *early*, or it will not be at all; and therefore, after bleeding and evacuations, as soon as that alarming symptom appears, which denotes an *inflammation* of the *omentum*, viz. pain darting downwards from the stomach to the navel; it will be adviseable immediately to apply either a blister or sinapism, to one or both sides.

This practice, I think, will be sufficiently justified by the great relief they afford in fixed pleuritic pains, or wherever there is local inflammation.

Volatile liniments, and penetrating topics, such as the following, have also been found serviceable, particularly where the use of blisters appears exceptionable or improper,

R.

Ol. dulc. amygd. ʒiss

Camphor. ʒss.

Sp^t volatil. aromat. ʒiii misce.

These

These are the best reasons that I am able to assign for the expediency of the remedies pointed out in the *Child-bed Fever*; but I did not venture to trust to them from theory only, nor expected that others should do so, till observation and experience had convinced me of their good effects; particularly, *early and copious bleeding*, and the *antiphlogistic method*; which I am therefore desirous to recommend, in preference to every thing I have hitherto seen tried in the cure of that fatal disease.

S E C T.

S E C T I O N III.

Of the Prophylactic Method, or Means contributing to prevent the Disease.

THE Child-bed Fever, when produced by a distemperature of the air, like the epidemical dysentery, or ulcerous sore throat, may at last become infectious; but when it only arises from such accidental causes as have already been enumerated, and which are confined to particular habits and constitutions; I believe it will then never communicate itself to a second person.

It is probable, that many diseases which are foreseen, might either be prevented or rendered less dangerous in their event, by what is called the *prophylactic method*; a branch of physic not hitherto sufficiently cultivated,

Sydenham

Sydenham supposes, that of those women who fail in Child-bed; scarcely one in ten of them die for want of strength, or by what they have endured in labour; but in consequence of their rising too soon from bed; and therefore, he would not have them taken up at least till the tenth day after delivery: there is so much reason in this observation, that it ought to be duly regarded; but I think it may be said with truth, that the proportion of those dying of the Child-bed Fever, compared to the number who die from dangerous or difficult labours, is at least double of that mentioned by Dr. *Sydenham*.

It is sometimes easier to avoid the approach of an evil than to find a remedy for it when present; therefore every attempt towards it will be more or less necessary, in proportion to the danger of the evil itself; and since it appears that the Child-bed Fever, in the epidemical season, is frequently fatal; it would be a most desirable

fireable circumstance, and a thing of real importance, if means could be devised to secure women from its influence.

I should be inclined to hope that this is possible, at least in a certain degree; and the rather from what has been judiciously and experimentally laid down on the subject of *Fevers* and *Infection* by Dr. Lind; or, although the disease should appear, the symptoms would probably be milder, and the event more favourable.

It has been observed, that the more the body is endowed with an exquisite degree of sensibility, the more it becomes disposed to receive infection; would it not therefore be rational and expedient, when this disease is most frequent and fatal, to administer such medicines, *a few days before and after delivery*, as have been known to strengthen the constitution, and to diminish the sensibility and irritability of the habit? If so, nothing would so powerfully contribute

contribute to this end, as the liberal use of *Peruvian bark*, together with the chalybeate waters, particularly those of *Pyrmont* or *Spa*. Where the nervous system is extremely irritable, and thrown into disorder from slight, accidental causes; the prudent use of *opium* will also be attended with great advantage; as it will restore rest to the body, and tranquility to the mind, by dispossessing it of those disquieting ideas which disturb and pervert the natural secretions, and tend to excite a fever: It has been supposed, that this medicine will suspend the bodily powers, and render them torpid and sluggish in shaking off diseases; but it appears too hasty a conjecture; for in women of hysterical habits, who frequently suffer from agitation of mind, and where the pulse from thence becomes quick, weak and tremulous; there is not perhaps to be found, a more sovereign and effectual cordial in the whole *Materia Medica*.

It will also be necessary to caution the patient against all such adventitious causes as have been known either singly to produce this fever, or to add to the influence of the air in bringing it on; such as sudden terror, or long-continued distress of mind; rising too soon from bed after delivery; errors in diet; or cold air admitted to the body in a full stream. Her food should be simple, easy of digestion, and chiefly of the vegetable acefcent kind; her drink may be wine and water, acidulated with orange-juice, or any of the grateful acids. She should use gentle exercise, and breathe a free open air, guarding against all sudden changes from one extreme to another. The bed-chamber after delivery, should be cool, and neither incommoded with much noise or strong light. In a word, the body should be kept still and quiet, and every thing carefully avoided which disagreeably engages the attention of the mind.

Nothing

Nothing will sooner dispose the fluids to a state of putrefaction, than *long fasting*; which occasions a stinking breath, and looseness of the teeth; so that animals starved to death, may be said in reality to rot alive. From this circumstance may be inferred, the great advantage of frequently taking in aliment, or attemperating acrescent fluids, with a view to prevent diseases of the putrid kind; for it may also be observed, that they will survive a long time by the use of water only; which carries off the acrimonious salts, and rancid oils, by urine; and therefore, hinders the juices from becoming putrid.

How far some of those rules and cautions might be conducive to the preservation of women, if duly regarded *before delivery*, I cannot from experience determine; as the patients at the *Westminster Hospital* were always received in actual labour; and considering how much people in general are swayed by opinion and

vulgar prejudice; I did not chuse to urge this matter too far in private practice, lest by its novelty, it should carry with it the appearance of an experiment, to which those of weak understandings are always averse, however safe and rational it might be in itself, or however useful it should prove in the conclusion.

The pernicious custom of binding the body too tight, is also to be avoided; as it will produce difficulty of breathing, head-ach, and oppression at the stomach.

Particular odours will likewise occasion very bad effects, and have an inconceivable power on some particular women of a delicate, hysterical habit; being sometimes known to bring on sickness at the stomach, a delirium and faintings.

I think it will be adviseable for the patient to suckle her child, at least for the first three weeks or a month, altho' the principal danger seems to be over before the end of a fortnight,

Nothing

Nothing will so soon dispose women to this fever, as breathing a putrid, confined air, especially if it be warm and moist; for these qualities destroy its elastic power, and not only render it unfit for respiration, but also more apt to generate diseases of the putrid kind.

Peu gives a very striking and self-evident proof of the truth of this assertion; having observed, that in hospitals where women were delivered in wards among the wounded, a great many of them died; so as to occasion a suspicion of the skill or attention of those who delivered them *. The matter being attentively considered, they discovered, that this uncommon mortality was owing to the *putrid effluvia* continually exhaling from the wounds of the sick; and as a confirmation of this conjecture, it was observed, that when the number of wounded patients increased, so did this contagious fever among

* *Peu la Pratiq. des Accouch.* liv. ii. chap. i. pag. 268.

among the Child-bed Women, and vice versa.

This circumstance will suggest a very useful hint, which ought to be duly regarded by all those who have the direction and superintendency of public *lying-in hospitals*: The wards should not be overcrowded with beds, in order to avoid the danger of breathing air rendered impure by a great number of people confined in a narrow space; and also the cries of children and the noise of such women as may happen to be in labour. The different wards should not only be kept exceeding clean, but also ventilated by a stream of fresh air passing through them, as they become empty by succession.

When the heat of the weather is extreme; the air may be rendered cool and refreshing, as well as antiseptic, by sprinkling the boards with pure water and vinegar; for all fluids, in a state of evaporation, have been found to generate cold.

This

This method was constantly observed at the *Westminster Lying-in Hospital*, during the epidemical season. Such wards may also be fumigated with fragrant gums, as those of *myrrh*, and *gum copal*, with the addition of *Cascarilla bark*; but above all, the steams of boiling *vinegar*, to which, *lavendar flowers* have been added, with a sufficient quantity of *camphire*, may frequently be taken into the lungs, as the most grateful and effectual preservative that perhaps is to be found.

Lind observes, that the admission of pure air, or the most perfect ventilation, is not always sufficient to abate the activity, or dislodge the *infectious matter* from the place of its residence; he therefore recommends the proper application of *fire* and *smoke*, as the most certain and effectual means of extinguishing the source of contagion: He also advises the burning of wood fires; as is has been experimentally found, that the smoke of burning wood

wood not only tends greatly to abate its violence, but also to preserve the uninfectcd from its malignant power.

He directs the wards, or infected chambers of the sick, to be closely shut up, and then to be fumigated with *brimstone strewed on charcoal fires*; and further adds, that, except the *plague* itself, no infections more pestilential and mortal have been known to prevail any where, than those in some ships; yet he never heard of any ship which did not immediately become healthy, after being thus carefully and properly fumigated; and if we are not misinformed, some very late accounts from abroad assure us, that the *plague* itself was prevented by methods of the like kind.

Next to the smoke of burning wood, especially *spruce*, or that of the terebinthinate kind; he esteems the fumes of gunpowder, for purifying a tainted air. All bodies, during their consumption by fire, afford a large quantity of *mephitic air*,
which

which has been found powerfully to resist putrefaction; and upon this principle, I believe that the good effect of the preceding method solely depends.

Experiments shew, that animals cannot long survive, nor flame subsist, without the accession of fresh air; even a common candle will require a gallon of this fluid in a minute. Considering therefore, that the atmosphere is continually injured by the corruption of perishable bodies; and the effect of artificial fires, with those natural, and more immense ones, proceeding from volcano's; it seemed a matter of wonder, how the air could still preserve its original purity; 'till Dr. *Priestley* discovered, that the perspirable matter or *effluvia of vegetables* is the grand resource, the sovereign remedy which nature applies to restore the salutary principles of air, thus injured and rendered unfit for respiration.

From this circumstance, it will appear no irrational caution, to place pots of myrtle, southern-wood or mint in the chamber of the sick, during the *epidemical season*; as those vegetables are continually throwing off their *antiseptic vapour*. But it is to be observed that the good it produces is not owing to any aromatic quality; for vegetables of an offensive smell, and even such as were almost inodorous, were found most powerful in resisting the putrescent quality of air.

Hence the custom, with some of putting green boughs round the sick, or sprinkling the ground with new gathered leaves and flowers, on the supposition of affording refreshment and disposing the patient to sleep, does not seem ill founded; for although they were ignorant how such relief was procured; they might, notwithstanding, have sagacity enough to observe that the effect was certain.

The

The *matrons* of all *public hospitals*, in cases of extreme danger, should administer the medicines prescribed with their own hands; they should also take care that the *nurses* do their duty, and frequently supply the patients with clean, well-aired linen; otherwise, the warmth of weather in the summer season, added to the heat of the body, may occasion a corruption of the lochia, which will taint the air, and not only render it offensive, but highly noxious.

During the first week or ten days after delivery, women should wear half shifts and skirts, for the greater convenience of changing them with ease, as occasion may require.

In such *hospitals* there ought to be particular beds or couches, for the sake of delicacy and neatness, as well as to keep the rest dry and clean: These delivery-beds, as they are called, being placed upon casters, may be brought close to another bed prepared for the reception of the

patient, into which she may be gently conveyed, after resting a little to recover her strength and spirits from the fatigue of labour : This method will afford exceeding comfort and refreshment to a woman after delivery, and will also contribute greatly to her recovery, by removing her from the wet linen, which would subject her to take cold.

The mattresses and bedding should often be inspected, and frequently exposed to the sun and open air ; and all foul linen should immediately be removed out of the wards ; together with the putrid, bilious fluids, rejected by the stomach or bowels.

When the patients at the *hospital* were helpless, and unable to sit up in bed to take refreshment ; they were supported by a kind of *half-chair*, made for that purpose, and placed behind their back, which was found extremely useful on such occasions.

SECTION IV.

The History and Treatment of the Disease further illustrated by particular Cases; with Animadversions and Remarks on the whole.

THE reader will find, that the following Cases were not set down with any intention to shew how successfully they were treated; but rather as examples of the dangerous tendency of the disease, which was oftentimes such as neither art or nature had power to subdue: I have paid no regard to the caution of omitting some of those where it was fatal; or of inserting others when the event was favourable; in short, I have no where put a mask on the face of the disease, or suppressed the mention of a single circumstance which I thought could prove of the least use in being known; but have, at all events, described it as I found it in the
epidemical

epidemical season, and as it will be found by others, under the like circumstances, viz. dangerous in its nature, and difficult of cure.

From what has been advanced, it appears, that the human body is so constructed, as only to sustain violence to a certain degree ; and therefore, if the force of a dangerous disease is superadded to that indisposition brought on the habit by delivery, it is generally then much more fatal than at any other time ; so that certain maladies which might have been separately endured, become destructive by their united power. In the *small-pox*, for instance, taken in the natural way, about one in seven or eight may probably die ; but supposing those affected with it to be women at the *point of delivery*, scarcely one out of the whole number will be found to recover.

C A S E I.

Elizabeth Waters, a young woman of a strong, healthy habit, aged twenty-one, was delivered in the *Westminster New Lying-In Hospital*, April the 7th, 1768. On the fourth day after, she complained of the head-ach, which she said, was owing to her being disturbed by another patient in labour, who lay near her in the same ward: her pulse was tolerably good, and neither very full or frequent, but as her head-ach continued till the next morning; eight ounces of blood were then taken from the arm, which afforded her much relief. She had milk in her breasts, and the *lochia* were discharged in due quantity, without any pain or tension of the belly. Two days after, the pain in her head returned with violence, attended with thirst and fever, for which she lost seven ounces more blood: she took a laxative mixture, which had its proper effect, and afterwards

afterwards the saline draughts every four or five hours, from which she seemed better; but as the pain in her head still continued, I directed *leeches* to her temples the next evening, which gave her ease.

She was apparently much better for a few days, her appetite being good, and her aspect chearful; but soon after relapsed, and was seized with severe and excruciating pains, like those of the acute rheumatism, in her limbs and body: She became quite helpless, and was not able to turn herself in bed without assistance.

I attended this patient with Dr. *Brickenden*, one of the physicians of the hospital: We directed antimonial powders, which she took as occasion required, but without much relief; as the pains continued, with a slow, lingering fever, for seven or eight days; and as they abated, were succeeded by a great number of bluish

th discolourations on the skin, which were terminated by abscesses in different parts of her body: As they advanced slowly, and did not point with tension and redness, but were soft and of a pale, livid hue; we directed the *bark*, with wine and good nourishment to quicken the circulation, and assist nature in bringing them forwards, as they plainly appeared of the critical kind; but notwithstanding they were constantly poulticed twice a-day, not one of them came to suppuration so as to break, even at the end of six weeks from the beginning of her disorder; she was therefore removed to the *Westminster Hospital*, where the abscesses, in number eighteen, as I was informed, were opened, and after remaining some weeks there, she at last recovered; and being cured, and discharged, came and returned thanks at the *Lying-In Hospital*.

C A S E II.

Elizabeth Becket, aged twenty-six, and of a healthy constitution, after a difficult labour which lasted several hours, was delivered of a dead child at the *Hospital*, *February* the 18th, 1769.

She was affected with the head-ach, and sick at stomach, from the day of delivery, but did not vomit.

February 19. Her pulse being frequent, and somewhat full and strong, and the head-ach violent, I directed eight ounces of blood to be taken away; an emollient clyster was then administered, and she afterwards took the saline draughts, with *sperm. ceti* every five or six hours. Towards the evening she had four bilious stools, and appeared better.

20th. Her thirst was excessive, her tongue white and dry, she perspired but little, and had three evacuations by stool
she

she diluted plentifully with weak tea, and took her medicines as before.

21st. Slept but little, her eyes were blood-shot and prominent, and her head-ach not abated; her skin was dry, and her pulse being stronger than usual in such cases, eight ounces more blood were taken away.

22d. She slept the preceding night; her head-ach was greatly relieved, and all the febrile symptoms manifestly abated; notwithstanding, she remained weak and helpless, and had involuntary stools for a few days after; but as her strength increased, this inconvenience went off, and in about a fortnight's time from the first attack, she perfectly recovered.

The *milk* continued till the fifth day, and the *lochial discharge* did not seem altered from its natural state.

R E M A R K S.

I would not here have it inferred that these two patients recovered because bleed-

ing was directed ; but rather from their having this fever when the season was not *epidemical*; for it is to be remarked, that the attack is not then so violent, and all the subsequent symptoms are less severe : The shivering fit in the beginning is generally less, and the diarrhœa and bilious vomiting are either inconsiderable, or do not appear at all ; the pulse is neither so quick or weak, and the disease, instead of being terminated about the tenth or eleventh day, is often protracted far beyond that period, from *acute* becoming *truly chronic*, and then seldom proving fatal.

Eliz. Burges was the first patient seized with the *Child-bed Fever* in the epidemical season ; she was delivered on the 6th of *December*, 1769, and died about twelve days after ; but the particulars of her case I cannot distinctly remember.

C A S E III.

Juliana Thompson, aged twenty-one, and of a delicate habit, having received a stroke
on

on her belly, was suddenly seized with labour, and delivered in a chair as she was coming to the hospital, *December* the 7th, 1769.

She continued pretty well for the two first days, but was rather languid and dejected in her spirits, having had a slight uterine hæmorrhage from the time she received the hurt to that of being delivered.

December 10. Was feverish and thirsty, and complained of great pain in her head; there was no appearance of *milk*, and the *lochia* were discharged in their natural quantity. She took lenitive elect. with oil of almonds, which procured her two or three evacuations; the thirst and fever were abated, and her head-ach was much better.

11th. Continued better, and was able to sit up in bed.

12th. Her face was florid, her cheeks beset with a deep crimson colour; and her
pulse

pulse was quick and weak; the tongue looked clean, though her thirst was intense; she diluted plentifully with tea and barley-water; the saline mixture with sperm. ceti, was given occasionally, and a clyster of beef-water directed to be administered; Towards the evening, a difficulty of breathing came on, with oppression at her breast, and a pain in her left side.

When I visited this patient with Dr. Ford, we directed the *tartar emetic* in the third part of a grain to be given every four or five hours, and a *blister* to be applied to her side; the emollient clyster was also repeated.

She had six or seven stools in the night, and the next day appeared easier, but was languid and weak; her pulse continued very quick; and the blister did not rise.

As there was sediment in her urine, with signs of a remission, we thought it advisable to try the *bark* in decoction; but it purged her immoderately, although the
simple

simple cinnamon-water was added, and therefore was left off.

The next day she complained of pains shooting downwards from her stomach to the navel, for which a volatile liniment was applied, but as it did not procure her much relief; we directed the *warm bath* the day following, in the manner already mentioned at p. 118. a long flannel gown being next her skin; she was afterwards put into a warm bed, and supplied with beef-tea and other warm fluids, in order to encourage a gentle perspiration.

Bladders half filled with warm water, and wrapped in flannels, were applied to her stomach and sides, where she still complained of pain and oppression, and the emollient clysters were also continued, with g^{tt}. xxx of the *thebaic tincture*.

The next day her belly began to swell, though the purging still continued; she had partial, faint sweats on her breast and face, and was now extremely weak, though
perfectly

perfectly sensible, but could take nothing except nourishment for several days before her death; which happened on the 25th of *December*; being the fifteenth day from the time of the febrile attack.

Margaret Walker, another patient in the same ward, was delivered on the 11th of *December*, and sickened soon after the former: They both lay ill at the same time, and laboured under symptoms so exactly similar, that it would be unnecessary to set down the particulars of this last case: She died on the 21st of the same month, nine days after being seized with the disease.

C A S E IV.

Mrs. T. a lady near the *Abbey* in *Westminster*; young, and of a strong and healthy habit; after a labour perfectly natural, was suddenly attacked with a violent shivering fit, the third day after delivery, being the 1st of *January* 1770:

She

She was also affected with a thrilling, uncommon sensation, as if a cold, wet sheet had been applied round her body.

She complained of head-ach, and was sick at stomach; during the excess of febrile heat, her pulse beat a hundred and thirty times in a minute, and was more full and strong than usual in this fever; her countenance was florid, and much altered from its natural state, having an unusual stare with her eyes.

Small portions of *emetic tartar*, viz. the fourth part of a grain, were given with the saline mixture, every four hours: She diluted plentifully with barley-water and balm-tea, but did not perspire.

The second day after the attack, a violent bilious purging came on; the antimonial powders were then given by longer intervals; the saline mixture was discontinued, and emollient clysters were directed: She took rice-water, and the white decoction for common drink.

The fever and diarrhœa continued very violent for three or four days; her belly swelled, and she frequently complained of much pain at the bottom of her stomach, and towards the navel: Sometimes there seemed to be obscure signs of a remission in the morning, but towards the evening, the fever again returned with violence.

As she apparently grew worse, and as I was, at that time, ill and unable to give her due attendance, I desired Dr. *Hunter* might be called in, which was accordingly done. He directed eight ounces of blood to be taken away; the clysters to be repeated, and a bladder, filled with scalded bran, to be applied warm to the umbilical region. The next day, I met Dr. *Hunter* and Dr. *Hugh Smith*: The saline draughts, with ʒfs of the *confect. damocratis*, were directed every six hours, and in other respects, much the same method was pursued as before.

When

When Dr. *Smith* visited this patient with me the day following, we found her delirious, and therefore, instead of the confect. damocratis, Di of the *pulv. contrayer. c.* was added to each saline draught, which was ordered to be continued as before: Four spoonfuls of the *tincture* of *roses* were given in the interval, and clysters of chicken-water were directed to be administered frequently. The two following days I was prevented from seeing her; during which, she took medicines of the warm cordial kind, but without perspiration, or any abatement of the febrile symptoms.

A few days before her death, she was delirious; her eyes were blood-shot and filled with involuntary tears; at the same time, a *miliary eruption* appeared very thick on her breast and body; and her stools, which were frequent and very foetid, came away insensibly.

Leeches were then applied to her temples ; the clysters were repeated, and her strength was supported by nourishment and wine, but all without a salutary effect ; for on the twelfth of *January* she died ; and several hours before her death became perfectly sensible.

The *lochia* were discharged in due quantity, but there was no secretion of *milk*.

R E M A R K S.

The signs of putrefaction in this patient before death, were very evident : The smell of the room several days after she was buried being intolerably offensive, notwithstanding it had been thoroughly cleansed and fumigated with frankincense.

Purgative medicines, which are found so extremely beneficial in the secondary, putrid fever after the small-pox, cannot here be employed to advantage ; because of the tenderness of the bowels and excessive loss of strength from the preceding diarrhoea ;

rhœa; so that the *bark*, with *opiates* and frequent nourishment, seem most likely to afford relief, where that is in the power of medicine; but unfortunately, the state of the patient is generally at this time such, for the reasons already given, as excludes all human assistance.

Where the stools are excessively putrid, it might be worth while to try the effects of fluids which contain a large quantity of *fixed air*, given in clysters; as they have been found powerfully to resist putrefaction, agreeable to some late hints in Dr. *Priestley's* curious tract on the method of impregnating water with fixed air.

Elizabeth Tomkins, also died of this fever, the 15th of *January*, 1770.

C A S E V.

Mary Evans, aged twenty-nine, was delivered *February* the 5th, 1770, without any uncommon circumstance attending

ing

ing her labour, which was easy and natural.

Her habit of body was apparently good, but being crooked and narrow chested, she was subject to an habitual difficulty of breathing. She took an anodyne draught, with sperm. ceti, and passed a good night after delivery.

February the 6th. Perspired gently, and was free from pain and fever.

7th. At seven in the morning was attacked with a slight shivering fit, which lasted about fifteen minutes, but was not succeeded by any violent degree of feverish heat; she took the antimonial powders every three or four hours, and fell into a gentle perspiration, which seemed to relieve her; an emollient clyster was also directed.

8th. Rested the preceding night, and continued tolerably easy; she had one bilious stool in the morning, was weak and languid,

languid, but free from pain, and got some sleep.

9th. At nine in the morning she had a shivering fit, which was relieved by drinking warm fluids and the application of hot flannels to her extremities and sides; in a few hours the cold fit in a slight degree returned, and was succeeded by a fever, and partial sweats on her breast and temples; she had some rest the former part of the night, but at two o'clock was waked by violent *gripings* and *tormina* in the bowels, followed by nine or ten bilious stools, after which she had ease.

10th. About twelve at noon she was seized with a great difficulty of breathing, and in the time of inspiration, was affected with intolerable acute pain, striking down from her breast to the navel; but there was no tension or pain in the belly, nor any symptom that could strictly be called uterine, the *lochia* being neither foetid or deficient in quantity: her
pulse

pulse at the same time was quick, and unequal ; but, considering her great difficulty of breathing, six ounces of blood were taken away, and the following mixture was given occasionally ; a broth clyster with gtt. xx. of thebaic tincture, was also directed, and she took rice-water or decoct. alb. for common drink.

R.

Lact. Ammoniac. ℥vii.

Sperm. Ceti solut. ℥ii.

Elix. paregoric. ℥iii.

Fiat Mistura cujus sumat Cochlearia duo subinde urgente dolore vel dyspnœa.

After bleeding, her pulse became somewhat stronger, and its strokes were more distinct and free ; the pain at the navel and difficulty of breathing were a little abated, and she passed a tolerable good night with refreshing slumbers.

11th. In the morning she was weak, but free from pain or much fever, and breathed with considerable ease ; about
three

three in the afternoon, she became feverish again ; and in the evening her pulse was quick and almost imperceptibly weak ; her limbs were cold, and partial, clammy sweats overspread her face and temples.

I directed two spoonfuls of the following mixture to be given every two or three hours :

R

Spec. e Scord. cum Opio ℥i

Aq. Cin. simp. ℥vi

— *Nucis Moschat.* ℥i

Syr. e Cort. aurant. ℥ss fiat *Mistura.*

An anodyne clyster was directed as before : her extremities were kept warm with hot flannels, and she passed a restless night, being delirious by turns. At four in the morning, she had four black foetid stools, which were voided without pain. At seven, she was perfectly sensible, and so continued 'till the hour of ten, at which time she calmly expired, being the fifth day from the attack of the fever.

The *lochial discharge* was natural, and she had milk at the usual time, which left her soon after the febrile attack.

D I S S E C T I O N.

After making an incision into the abdomen, from the navel to each anterior angle of the os ilium, and turning down the muscular flap over the pubes; about five ounces of *white, curd-like pus* covered the surface of the intestines; it did not run out when the abdominal cavity was laid open, being of a much thicker consistence than common matter. On further examination, I found that the greatest part of the *omentum* was melted down, and formed this *purulent concrete*; and that the small portion remaining, was much inflamed, and slightly adhered to the intestines. About a pint and a half of a putrid fluid, like whey, was found in the cavity of the pelvis, mixed with concremented matter, and bits of black, grumous blood, which seemed

to

to have escaped from the eroded vessels of the *omentum*.

The *uterus* was contracted to the size of a swan's egg, and shrunk down below the brim of the pelvis: On cutting into its cavity, small flaky pieces of the false chorion were found adhering to its surface, but it did not contain any kind of fluid; in short, this part, as well as the bladder was perfectly sound, and without the least mark of inflammation, or any other morbid affection.

The substance of the *liver* was also found, but appeared pale, bloodless, and as if it had been par-boiled; and the gall bladder was full of blackish bile.

The *stomach* and *intestines* were in their natural states; the first contained about half a pint of a watery blackish fluid, which smelled like rancid bile; and in the last, was found twice that quantity of a dark green fluid, somewhat like that in the stomach.

The *spleen* was large, but found.

The sternum being raised, the lungs appeared of a livid hue, but on cutting into their substance, neither pus or tubercles were found, nor any signs of inflammation; only the left lobe, at its posterior and superior part, slightly adhered to the pleura.

The veins on the neck and breast on the left side, were enlarged to three times their natural diameter, and were filled with blood of a bluish colour.

R E M A R K S.

When respiration becomes extremely difficult and painful, in diseases of the thorax or abdomen, especially those of the inflammatory kind, nothing affords such speedy relief as bleeding; for if the breath is drawn in with excessive pain, the lungs cannot be sufficiently inflated, and therefore the blood will not be freely discharged from the heart through the pulmonary artery; hence great oppression and anxiety

at the præcordia, which if not speedily removed, may produce a mortal suffocation ; but when *matter* is already unluckily formed, as in the preceding case, it will then plainly appear, that the patient is past the assistance of art, and that neither bleeding or any thing else can avail.

As this disease is principally seated in the *omentum*, and uniformly produces an inflammation of that part (*epiploitis*) I think it will strongly enforce a necessity for the early loss of blood, together with the immediate application of *blisters* to the sides, or even to the umbilical region ; to prevent, if possible, a morbid affection of the viscera, which, when once begun, is rapid in its progress, and generally fatal in the conclusion.

C A S E VI.

Ann Hewatson, aged twenty-six, and of a delicate habit, was delivered *February* the 5th, 1770. Her case was somewhat laborious, and the birth of the child succeeded

ceeded by a discharge of grumous blood from the uterus : The *placenta* came away without any assistance, about an hour after delivery ; she was easy in the night, and had refreshing sleep.

6th. Being inclined to sleep, took a sperm. ceti emulsion without any opiate ; perspired gently, had a good night with natural rest, and waked free from pain or fever. The lochial discharge was large in quantity and foetid ; but the belly was soft, and without pain.

7th. Continued easy, and had a moderate secretion of milk.

8th. About ten in the morning, after a breakfast of tea, without any evident cause, she was suddenly attacked with a *rigor*, which shook her whole body like an ague-fit ; the shivering lasted above half an hour, gradually becoming less and less intense from its onset.

She took the emetic draught already mentioned, which operated mildly : To-
wards

wards evening, the antimonial powders were given by due intervals: she was extremely feverish, thirsty, and restless at night, but was somewhat relieved by a free perspiration, which came on about twelve o'clock.

9th. Had four bilious, frothy stools, preceded by violent pains and gripings in the bowels: an emollient clyster was injected. Her pulse was quick and weak, and the febrile symptoms violent. She had a very restless night, but only one evacuation by stool, and without pain.

10th. In the morning had nine or ten blackish stools, mixed with mucus, which were extremely offensive, and attended with great pain: her pulse were excessively quick, she breathed laboriously, as it were by jerks, and complained of great oppression across the breast and stomach, and of pain striking down under her shoulder-blade, when she drew in her breath: eight ounces of blood were taken
away.

away, and a starch clyster with gtt. xxx of tinct. thebaic was administered: she only now took rice-water, with a small portion of brandy in it, as every thing else purged her immoderately. Towards the evening, seemed a little better, her pulse was not so frequent, and the pain and feverish symptoms were somewhat abated.

11th. Hot and restless, with faint sweats on her breast, neck, and face. The emollient clyster was repeated, without the opiate; after which she had some sleep.

12th. The clyster came away with a bilious stool; she was manifestly much worse, her pulse being very quick, and her thirst intense; she breathed laboriously, had a fixed crimson colour in her cheeks, and was also much troubled with a cough and viscid phlegm, which she was unable to expectorate, but found relief by taking the following mixture:

R. Sal.

R

Sal. Absinth. ʒi

Succ. Limon. ʒiss, *peracta effervescentia,*
affund.

Aq. Hyssop. ʒvi

Elix. paregoric ʒii

Syr. balsamic. ʒiii

Fiat Mistura cujus sumat Cochlearia duo
subinde pro re nata.

13th. She was supported by a cordial
julep when faint, together with light nou-
rishment, and wine given by spoonfuls.

14th. Breathed with great difficulty, and
her pulse was very quick and weak. She
had partial sweats on her stomach, breast,
and face, attended with coldness of the
extremities, great langour, and all the
symptoms of approaching death : she died
about two in the morning, being the eighth
day after the attack.

R E M A R K S.

At the time of the shivering fit, which
happened on the third day ; this patient

A a had

had plenty of milk in her breasts, which afterwards suddenly disappeared, and was totally gone off in the evening; her breasts being then loose and empty: the defect of milk, is therefore manifestly a consequence of the morbid cause.

There is however one circumstance, which, although it seems to controvert this opinion, I cannot help mentioning, viz. those who were seized with this fever, were not subject to abscesses of the breasts; and of those who happened to have such abscesses, I have never known one die; neither are they subject to a diarrhoea, or much symptomatic fever, although the pain attending a suppuration of the breast, is often very acute.

The putrid discharge of the *lochia* in this case, appears merely accidental, and only owing to a corruption of the coagulated blood retained in the uterus, from the access of air, like that which came away soon after delivery.

Phæbe

Phoebe Hill, aged nineteen, was also violently seized with this fever on the eleventh of *February*, and contrary to my expectation, recovered, and was discharged in perfect health on the 3d of *March*.

She was blooded early and liberally, and treated much like the former patient, but I did not take minutes of her case.

C A S E VII.

Elizabeth Gardner, aged thirty-two, was delivered in the Hospital the 11th of *February*, 1770; her labour was natural, and her habit of body strong and healthy, although she had been troubled with a violent cough for several weeks before delivery.

12th. Her pulse was full and frequent, attended with great thirst, sickness at stomach, and pain in her head and bowels; she took the saline mixture, with sperm. ceti, and an emollient clyster was administered: She also drank plentifully

of weak tea and barley-water, but did not perspire, and passed the night without sleep.

13th. I visited this patient with Dr. Ford. Her pulse being exceeding quick, and more full and strong than usual, attended with excessive thirst, a violent head-ach and dry skin; we directed ten ounces of blood immediately to be taken away: A lenitive electuary was afterwards given, and also an emollient clyster, which produced two or three lax stools: She diluted plentifully, but did not perspire, and passed a restless night.

The secretion of *milk* was moderate, and the *lochial discharge* natural.

14th. In the morning had some refreshing sleep, with a gentle perspiration; her thirst and fever being somewhat abated: She had three evacuations by stool, but still complained much of an intolerable shooting pain in her head, especially at the time of coughing: Eight ounces

ounces more blood were taken away, which was not near so fizy as that first drawn.

15th. Much disturbed by her cough in the night, perspired but little, and had no sleep, though her head-ach was something better.

16th. In the evening, her pulse was extremely quick, her thirst immoderate, and all the febrile symptoms increased: she was sick at stomach, and had three bilious stools, with severe gripings in her bowels: the *antimonial powders* were given every three or four hours; about two hours after taking the second, she threw up a large quantity of viscid phlegm, mixed with bile, and in the night had eight or nine black stools, the last of which was very foetid, and mixed with blood and mucus. She was delirious by turns, very restless, and had partial, faint sweats on her breast and face.

The

The vitel. ovi, with mucilage of starch, was dissolved in rice-water, and injected as a clyster; and she took the following draught:

Rx.

Sperm. Ceti solut. ʒss

Pulv. e Tragacanth, C. ʒi

Aq. Cin. Simp. ʒiss

Tinct. Thebaic gtt. xv.

Syr. e Mecon. ʒi fiat haustus.

17th. Her stomach and bowels were much relieved, she slept in the night and waked refreshed; her pulse was weak but equal, and she perspired moderately.

18th. Better in all respects, but complained of great forenefs in the bowels at the time of coughing: She took the anodyne draught at night, and the starch clysters were continued with light nourishment.

19th. She was weak, but continued easy, her pulse was regular, and she perspired gently. Instead of medicines, she

now

now took calf's-foot-jelly, and nourishing broth, to repair her strength.

20th. Gained strength; from this time gradually continued to recover, and the 9th of *March*, she was discharged from the hospital in perfect health.

Ann Williams, who was delivered in the hospital on the 14th of *February*, was seized with this fever, and recovered under the like treatment.

Elizabeth Cousenitt, of a sickly, consumptive habit, also had the fever the 23d of *February*, and died the 3d of *March*: There was no secretion of *milk*, but the *lochial discharge* was natural. She was treated in the usual manner, but not bled.

C A S E VIII.

Ann Simms, aged twenty-two, and apparently healthy and strong, was delivered on *Tuesday* the 6th of *March*; her case was somewhat laborious, the child's head
being

being large, and detained several hours within the bones of the pelvis: An emollient clyster was directed in the evening, and she took an anodyne draught: passed a restless night, and without the least perspiration.

7th. Feverish and thirsty, her pulse quick and somewhat full, and her skin dry. She took the saline mixture, and diluted plentifully with nitrous drink; a clyster of beef-water was also given in the evening: She had a very indifferent night, and but little rest.

8th. Had some sleep the preceding night, and seemed a little better; she had milk in her breasts, and being costive, complained of the head-ach: a cathartic clyster was administered in the evening, which procured two evacuations, and her head was easier.

9th and 10th. Somewhat feverish, and restless, though free from pain.

11th. Con-

11th. Continued very restless; her pulse was quick, her tongue white and dry, and her thirst intense, without any perspiration: At night, she took a saline draught, with ten grains of *nitre* and gtt. xv. of *thebaic tincture*, but had scarcely any rest.

12th and 13th. The febrile symptoms continued, and though she diluted plentifully, her skin remained parched and dry. Six grains of *James's powder* were then administered, which puked her twice, and afterwards procured her three stools: At night I directed her another powder and an emollient clyster, with gtt. xxx. of *thebaic tincture*: She had some sleep in the night, but no free or equal perspiration.

14th. In the morning apparently better, and disposed to sleep, but towards the evening, was sick at stomach, and threw up a large quantity of bitter, glairy fluid; in the night she was seized with

severe pains in her bowels, followed by seven or eight bilious stools, and afterwards she had some sleep.

15th. Her pulse was quick, her skin dry, and her hand tremulous; her looks were wild and staring, and her cheeks beset with a deep crimson hue; she breathed laboriously, and complained of great pain in her side, and belly towards the navel: At night she had six black watery stools; after which, an anodyne draught and a starch clyster were directed: She seemed relieved, and slept for several hours.

16th. The pain in her belly and side was but little abated; she was extremely hot and restless, and could not sweat; I directed three spoonfuls of the following mixture to be given, which produced no perspiration although she took it every two or three hours:

Rx.

Sal. Volat. ammon. ℥i

Succ. Limon. recent. express. ℥iss misce

Aq.

Aq. Alex. simp. ℥vi

Tinct. croci. ℥iii

Syr. ejusd. ℥ss fiat *Mistura.*

17th. Much worse in all respects; the pulse being exceedingly quick, and almost imperceptibly weak; cold, clammy sweats overspread her breast and face, which was now pale and death-like, and about twelve at noon she expired.

The *lochia* were discharged in their natural quantity, and she had *milk* in her breasts till within a day or two of her death.

DISSECTION.

When the body was opened, the next day in the evening, the inferior lateral portion of the *omentum* was found much inflamed, its vessels being turgid, and as it were injected with blood, but the greater part of it was destroyed by a *suppuration*; what remained, adhered to the

small intestines, and also slightly to each other, where their convolutions came in contact.

The *uterus* was contracted to the size of a large fist, and lay at the bottom of the pelvis; the *fundus uteri* seemed to partake of that general inflammation which had apparently first affected the *omentum*, and afterwards, superficially overspread the *intestines*, the *mesentery* and contiguous parts; but on cutting into its substance, it was perfectly firm and sound, although it had a livid appearance towards the cervix and os internum; which was probably owing to the violence sustained by those parts in the time of labour.

In the cavity of the pelvis, was found above a pint of whey-coloured fluid, with three or four ounces of thick matter, which did not uniformly mix with it, but floated in it like curds in whey, together with several bits of black, coagulated blood.

The

The *liver* was found, but remarkably pale, and the gall-bladder was turgid with a large quantity of *olive-coloured bile*; in consistence, equal to that of honey, and with difficulty, squeezed through the cystic duct. The stomach contained about half a pint of black, oily liquor, resembling that which was voided by stool.

The contents of the *thorax* were found, and without any morbid appearance, except a slight adhesion of the right lobe of the lungs to the pleura.

C A S E IX.

Ann Cook, aged twenty, and of a delicate habit, after an easy labour, was delivered in the hospital the 13th of *March*, 1770.

The same evening she complained of sickness at stomach, with pain in her bowels, and passed a restless night.

14th. Continued sick at stomach; took the *antimonial emetic draught*, and threw up
a large

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a large quantity of bilious, ropy fluids from the stomach; also had one lax stool; after which, a broth clyster was injected with thirty drops of *thebaic tincture*. She passed a tolerable night, perspired moderately, and had some refreshing sleep.

15th. Free from pain in the bowels, and had a good night's rest.

16th. Sick at stomach, and vomited a large quantity of poraceous fluid; her pulse was quick, and her thirst excessive: She took the *antimonial powders* every four or five hours, but perspired little, and had a restless night.

17th. In the morning complained of great sickness, and a burning heat at her stomach, with a violent head-ach; and threw up near a tea-cupful of dark green liquor, which seemed to be almost *pure bile*: She had also five bilious stools.

At night she was suddenly seized with an acute pain in her side, and great oppression at her breast; being likewise al-
most

most suffocated with tough phlegm, which she could not bring up : Her pulse was exceeding quick and somewhat weak, and her countenance ghastly ; but as she breathed with vast difficulty, I directed seven ounces of blood to be taken away, and that she should draw in the steams of warm water into her lungs at each inspiration : She afterwards took one of the antimonial powders, which occasioned her to vomit twice, and gave her two stools. She was exceeding weak, but breathed with a good deal more freedom and ease : An emollient anodyne clyster was injected, and she was ordered a spoonful or two of warm spiced wine when faint.

18th. In the morning she breathed with more ease, and was free from the load at her breast ; her pulse beat regularly, but was extremely languid : Bladders with hot water wrapped in flannels, were applied to the soles of her feet ; she took light-
nourish-

nourishment often, and now and then a spoonful of spiced wine.

19th. She had refreshing slumbers the preceding night, and gained strength; nothing was now given but frequent nourishment.

20th. Continued better; directed the following draught to be taken twice a-day, which greatly increased her strength:

R.

Decoct. Peruv. Cort. ℥iss

Aq. Cin. Spt. ℥iii

Spt. Lavend. c. gtt. xxx

Confect. Alkerm. ℥i fiat haustus.

In about a week's time she was much recovered, and went out of the hospital the 2d of *April* in perfect health.

C A S E X.

Philadelphia Ford, aged twenty-eight, was delivered the 14th of *March*, 1770, and was well till the third day, when she

com-

complained of great pain in her head, with lassitude and inability to turn in bed: Her countenance was florid; she had a brown dry crust on her tongue, and an unquenchable thirst: Her appetite left her, and there was not milk enough to give suck. The medicines usually administered on such occasions had but little effect; but all the febrile symptoms were much relieved by the appearance of a red cutaneous swelling on the joint of her great toe; In a few days, another swelling of a livid colour appeared below her hip; they both were poulticed and fomented, but did not suppurate; the last threw off a black mortified slough, and discharged a sanious ichor. I directed her a decoct. of the *bark*, with *tinct. aromat.* and by allowing her wine and good nourishment, she recovered.

Ann Deuse, of a thin, weakly habit, died of this fever, notwithstanding various remedies were tried for her relief: She had a natural labour, and remained well for

the first three days ; inadvertently she sat up on the fourth day, and found herself not well towards the evening : On the fifth, she was seized with a *shivering fit* ; the next day complained of pain in her belly and side ; and on the 29th of *March* she died, being the sixth day after the attack.

She had milk in her breasts, and the *lochial discharge* was natural.

Bleeding in this case, was not thought eligible. I have not known any instance besides this, where the disease proved fatal in so short a time, when it commenced so late after delivery ; being in general, then the most favourable.

The body being opened, almost exactly the same morbid appearances presented as in the preceding cases ; the *omentum* was destroyed, and a large quantity of *matter* and *purulent serum*, collected in the *abdomen*. The *intestines* were superficially inflamed, but the *uterus* and all the other *viscera* were perfectly sound.

Rebecca

Rebecca Day, of a healthy, robust habit, after a natural delivery, was seized with the head-ach and sickness at her stomach; two days after, a *miliary eruption* appeared on her breast and body, but without relief; for all the febrile symptoms gradually increased, and she died the 25th of *April*, being the tenth day after delivery.

The *lochial discharge* was not defective, neither was there a want of *milk*, till after the attack of the fever.

The body was opened, but as the appearance of the *affected parts* was much the same, and only differed in degree from those already mentioned; a recital of the particulars would be unnecessary.

C A S E X I.

Harriot Trueman, young and of a strong, healthy constitution, May the 2d, was delivered of a *monstrous child*, which presented

with the arm ; so that the case was preternatural in a double sense.

As this patient was of a plethoric habit, and subject to a cough, I directed seven ounces of blood to be taken away, before the delivery was attempted ; to prevent in some measure, the danger of inflammation, which might arise from the violence applied in turning the child.

After delivery, an emollient clyster was directed, and a saline mixture with sperm. ceti and syr. e mecon. of which, she was to take three spoonfuls every four or five hours, as occasion required : she was free from pain, and had a good night.

3d. Perspired gently, continued free from pain and fever, her cough less violent, and she passed her water with ease ; the mixture was continued, and a clyster as before, given in the evening : she remained easy during the night, and rested well.

4th. Con-

4th. Continued perfectly easy, and passed a good night: the *lochia* discharge was natural, and she had no pain in the region of the uterus.

5th. About three in the afternoon, she was seized with a difficulty of breathing, with tightness and oppression across her breast and stomach; seven ounces of blood were immediately taken away, which was exceedingly fizy. The strokes of her pulse were weak, quick, and indistinct after bleeding; but soon became less frequent, and more ample and strong; she found herself much relieved, and could then breathe with freedom; was disposed to a gentle perspiration, and had refreshing slumbers in the night; the mixture and emollient clyster were repeated.

The secretion of *milk* was moderate.

6th. She continued easy, had a natural evacuation by stool, and slept by intervals.

7th. At

7th. At four in the morning, her difficulty of breathing and cough returned ; she was sick at stomach, vomited up a rosy, bilious fluid, and had five *black stools*. Her pulse was weak, frequent and intermitting ; her breasts subsided, and the milk suddenly disappeared.

I directed a powder, with the third part of a grain of the *tartar emetic*, and a scruple of the *pulv. Contrayer. c.* to be repeated every four or five hours after, if the first had no sensible operation by sweat or vomiting, and also an emollient clyster.

She passed a restless night without perspiration, her belly began to swell, and she had several involuntary bilious stools.

8th. Her respiration was frequent and laborious, her pulse quick and weak, her skin dry, and she complained much of pains in her sides, and across her belly near the navel, at the time of drawing in her breath.

I direct-

I directed fomentation to her belly and sides, the powders to be repeated, and a starch clyster to be injected in the evening, with gtt. xxx of the *tinct. thebaic.*

She took rice-water with a small quantity of brandy, for common drink, and a spoonful of spiced wine when faint.

The involuntary purging still continued violent, and she had no rest.

9th. Complained of pains in her breast and belly, her difficulty of breathing increased, her pulse was quick and almost imperceptibly weak; she was delirious by turns; had cold, clammy sweats on her neck and face, and about four the next morning she expired.

D I S S E C T I O N.

When the body was opened, the greatest part of the *omentum* was suppurated, and converted into *thick matter*; the remaining portion, being much inflamed,
and

and slightly adhering to the folds of the *intestines*. The cavity of the *pelvis* and *abdomen*, contained about three pints of *putrid serum*, together with clots of concremented pus, and small pieces of coagulated blood.

The *uterus* was much contracted, and shrunk down to the inferior part of the pelvis; its substance was found, tho' the os tincæ was somewhat livid, which appearance not being considered as morbid, has already been taken notice of.

Scarcely any marks of inflammation appeared on the intestines or mesentery; the *liver* was apparently found, and the *gall-bladder* full of *yellow bile*, which had pervaded its coats, and dyed the contiguous parts of a saffron-hue; but this I did not look upon as a morbid appearance.

The *stomach* contained about a pint of *blackish fluid*, like that voided by stool, and which had the appearance of putrid bile.

On raising the sternum, two ounces or more of *matter* was lodged upon the *mediastinum*; and the *thorax* contained a small quantity of the same kind of whey-coloured fluid as that found in the abdomen: The *lungs* were apparently found, only the left lobe adhered slightly to the pleura, at its posterior part.

R E M A R K S.

The extravasation of purulent fluid in the abdomen, by hindering the free play of the diaphragm, will in a great measure account for the difficulty of breathing; particularly as the lungs were still further oppressed by the same kind of fluid in the cavity of the thorax.

As the blackish fluid found in the stomach resembled putrid bile; I mixed a small quantity of it with vinegar, but could not perceive any effervescence, neither did the vinegar change it green; but this perhaps might be owing to the natu-

ral properties of the bile being altered by putrefaction.

Hippocrates, in his Aphorisms, takes notice, that *black excrements*, resembling black blood, are to be looked upon as a bad omen; and that *black bile*, rejected either upwards or downwards at the beginning of a disease, is a mortal sign; which observation is verified by repeated experience in the advanced state of diseases, as well as at their beginning*.

The colour of the excrements passing through the alimentary tube, principally depends upon the quantity and quality of the *bile*; thus, where there is a defect of it, the stools are pale and the body costive; and on the contrary, when it abounds, they are yellow or greenish, and generally very frequent.

Black, foetid stools, such as were observed towards the end of the *Child-bed Fever*, almost certainly denote an *internal mortification*.

* *Hippocrat. Aphorism. Sect. quart. Aphor. 21 et 22.*

mortification, and therefore, it is no wonder they were so often followed by a fatal conclusion; but such a mortification cannot affect the colour of the excrements, except by means of the bile, which, after an absorption of the corrupted fluids into the blood, will at last become putrid, black, and acrimonious.

There was something very singular in this woman's child, which was *monstrous*: It had no thumbs; the parietal bones were wanting, and not above two ounces of brain was found in the cavity of the skull: The upper part of the scalp adhered strongly to the internal surface of the *placenta*, so that when the child was extracted, this part was pulled along with it, though luckily, it was not attended with any degree of flooding.

Elizabeth Pool, young, and of a healthy constitution, was delivered the 15th of May, and soon after affected with the

symptoms of this fever, but in a degree less acute than usual: Her case was much like that of *Elizabeth Waters*; for though she laboured under a slow, lingering fever for a long time, her appetite remained.

She was deprived of the use of her limbs for several days, yet the severe pains of which she complained, were not, like those of the former, followed by abscesses in the muscular parts.

On the 16th of *June*, she was sufficiently recovered to go out of the Hospital.

About this time, as near as I can recollect, I was called to a gentlewoman at *Clapham*, who was seized with this fever; and notwithstanding she had been very properly treated by her *apothecary*, and took every thing that could be devised for her safety, she died about the tenth day after the attack.

C A S E XII.

Mrs. P—, a lady in *Holborn*, aged twenty-eight, and of a delicate habit of body, was delivered by her midwife on *Saturday* morning, the 7th of *July*, 1770.

The birth was not attended with any dangerous or uncommon circumstance; she was easy after delivery, and rested well at night.

8th. Towards evening, complained of the head-ach, but had several hours sleep the following night.

9th. Waked in the morning with an *acute pain* in her right side, her head-ach was worse, and about three in the afternoon, she had a violent *shivering fit*, with coldness of the extremities, and great internal heat across the breast and stomach: I found her pulse exceeding quick, her head-ach violent, her tongue white and dry, and the pain in her side extremely acute and deep seated; she breathed laboriously,

riously, and had no perspiration, except on the breast and face.

I directed eight ounces of blood to be taken away, and one of the *antimonial powders* to be given soon after, which was to be repeated every two or three hours, if the first had no sensible effect. An emollient clyster was administered, and bladders of warm water were applied to the soles of her feet and sides: She passed a restless night, without any abatement of the pain or difficulty of breathing.

Two of the powders were taken, the first of which created a nausea, but did not prove emetic, nor produce any considerable perspiration.

The blood was not so fizy as I expected.

10th. The pulse being full, hard, and frequent, her skin dry, and respiration difficult and painful; eight ounces more blood were drawn; the powders were repeated every four or five hours, and a *blister* was applied to the affected side in
the

the evening: She drank plentifully of the common emulsion with *nitre*, to prevent the strangury, and to relieve her difficulty of making water, which had been troublesome to her from the beginning.

11th. Had no sleep the preceding night; and as both the pain in her head and difficulty of breathing still increased, she was again blooded in the night, to the quantity of six ounces, as I had previously directed, in case the symptoms became urgent.

She was much relieved soon after this last bleeding; the pain abated, and she could then breathe with much more freedom and ease; her pulse became more soft and less frequent, and a free and equal perspiration broke out all over her body.

At this time she began to be troubled with a cough, and was much oppressed with white viscid phlegm, which was expectorated with great difficulty: She
had

had two stools, with a large discharge of fœces, which came away with the second clyster.

The last drawn blood was uncommonly fizy, and the *gelatinous crust* on its surface extremely thick and tenacious.

She had *milk* in her breasts, which were drawn twice a-day, and the *lochial discharge* was natural.

As she perspired freely, the powders were discontinued, and the *saline draughts*, with *oxymel scillit.* were given every five or six hours.

The blister rose well ; the emulsion was continued, and the emollient clyster was ordered to be repeated as before.

About nine at night all her feverish symptoms returned ; her pulse was exceeding quick, her skin dry, her thirst intolerable, and the pain in her side and difficulty of breathing were so violent, that her *apothecary* was called up in the night, and took away six ounces more
blood :

blood: One of the *antimonial powders* was also given, after which, she again began to perspire, with an abatement of all the feverish symptoms, and had two or three hours refreshing sleep.

12th. Something better; but in the evening was attacked with a deep-seated violent pain in the other side, between the breast and axilla, so as almost to prevent her from breathing; her cough was also troublesome, and she expectorated with much difficulty; four ounces more blood was drawn, and the following draught prescribed:

R

Sal. Volat. ammon. gr. xv

Succ. Limon. ℥iii

Aq. alex. simp. ℥i

— *Spr. cum. Acet. ℥iii*

Tinct. Thebaic. gtt. xii

Syr. e Mecon. ℥i

Misce & fiat haustus vesperi exhibendus.

E e

She

She drank plentifully of thin diluting liquors with *nitre*; the clyster was repeated as before, and by intervals she took the following mixture:

R

Sperm. Ceti solut. ℥ii

Lact. ammon. ℥vii

Elix. Paregoric. ℥iii. fiat mistura.

She had an exceeding bad night, but slumbered a little between whiles.

13th. Apparently better, but complained of severe rheumatic pains about her back and loins: Her cough was more and more troublesome, and greatly interrupted her rest, but was relieved by the mixture with *gum ammoniacum*, to which a small quantity of the *oxymel. Scillit.* was now added.

White wine whey was ordered to be given her in the night to support her strength, and she took a decoct. of bread with currant jelly for nourishment.

14th. Had

14th. Had two or three hours refreshing sleep the preceding night, and the feverish symptoms were somewhat abated; but as there was not yet the least sediment or separation in the urine, which was high coloured, I still referred the use of the *bark*, and directed the anodyne draught at night as before, which always eased her cough, and procured her sleep.

15th. Being *Sunday*, about two in the morning, her relations thought her in great danger, and particularly requested me to see her, which I did accordingly: Her pulse was quick and tremulous, her extremities cold, and her face and breast were bedewed with a clammy sweat. She breathed laboriously, with convulsive jerks, and at the same time complained of great weight and oppression across her breast; though perfectly sensible, she had a wild, eager countenance, a trembling hand, and apparently all the symptoms of instant death.

I gave her four spoonfuls of a strong cordial julep, ordered sinapisms to her feet; her extremities were rubbed with hot flannels; and cloths dipped in brandy, were applied to her stomach.

A few hours after I was gone, she revived, but grew restless and almost frantic, insisting upon cold water to drink, which was given her: The next day I was acquainted she was still alive; when I visited her about one in the afternoon, she was perfectly sensible, but so weak and languid that she was scarcely able to speak.

I directed a cordial julep to be given when faint, and the following draught with the *bark*, to be taken every two hours, or as often as her stomach would bear; but as she had several involuntary stools, I ordered five grains of the *phil. e styrace* to be instantly given, which restrained the looseness, and procured her some hours sleep before the bark could be prepared.

R. Decoet.

R. Decoct. Peruv. Cort. ℥iss

Pulv. subtiliss. ejusd. ℥ss

Aq. Cinn. Spt. ℥iii

Syr. e Mecon. ℥i

fiat haustus alternis horis exhibendus.

By eleven o'clock at night, she had taken four draughts, and had very little return of the fever ; but as her skin was dry and her thirst intense, I allowed her to drink plentifully of toast and water, which she particularly desired, and swallowed with great eagerness ; after which, she gently perspired towards the morning, and growing cooler, she began the draughts as before. The urine was amber-coloured, but without sediment or separation.

16th. Better in all respects, but very weak, and her rest much disturbed in the night by the cough : Draughts continued as before, and by intervals wine and light nourishment were given often, and in small quantities.

17th. Continued free from fever, and
able

able to sit up; she had three stools, was much disturbed by her cough, and complained of a sore throat.

Directed *pil. e styrace* three grains, and the draughts only to be given three times a-day.

There was no remarkable change till the 21st. at which time she was almost unable to swallow, her throat being much worse, and the tonsil glands slightly ulcerated; her cough was troublesome, and several *miliary eruptions* appeared in her body.

The following draught was given every four or five hours, and her throat was fumigated with the steams of hot vinegar poured on lavender flowers, which gave her great relief:

R.

Decoct. Cort. Peruv. ℥iss

Extract. ejusd. moll. ℥i

Elix. Vitriol. dulc. g^{tt}. xx.

Aq. Cin. Spt. ℥iii

Confect. Alkerm. ℥i. misce & fiat haustus.

Her

Her strength was supported by nourishment of easy digestion as often as her stomach would dispense with it, and a little spiced claret was given to her whenever she pleased.

23d. I desired she might be removed into the country (*Clapham*) for the benefit of air; and in a few days she was so much better in all respects, as to leave off her medicines, and only took a tincture of the *bark*, and *cardamoms* as a stomachic, in a strong infusion of *tansy*.

R E M A R K S.

This fever was complicated with the *pleurisy* in a high degree; a case, of all others the most dangerous: and as pleuritic symptoms do sometimes accompany a morbid affection of the *abdominal viscera* in this disease; perhaps it might reasonably be asked, whether the *diarrhœa* and *inflammation of the omentum*, which so usually succeeded the *rigor*, were not here prevented by *early and repeated bleeding*?

From

From what may be observed in the foregoing history; it does not appear eligible to wait for a distinct intermission of this fever, lest a severe attack of the febrile paroxysm should in the mean time carry off the patient: I think a remission of the symptoms, especially if attended with any critical evacuation, is, in general, sufficient to justify the liberal and immediate use of the *bark*; but where they are at first manifestly inflammatory, if bleeding and evacuations have not preceded; I have seen it given without any good effect.

C A S E XIII.

Sarah Evans, about twenty-one years of age, was delivered in the Hospital on *Monday* the 19th of *November*, 1770; she had a natural labour, and was well the two first days after delivery; but on the third day was seized with a fever, which the *matron* believed was owing to a surprize, as the febrile symptoms appeared very soon after.

As

As this patient was of a very delicate irritable habit, and lax fibres ; I did not think it proper to direct bleeding, particularly as her skin was moist, and her pulse quick and weak.

She took a mixture with *spt. mindereri* and the *tinct. thebaic* ; emollient clysters were also directed to be frequently administered. After the fever had gradually increased for a few days, she complained of a difficulty of breathing, and pain in the side of her belly, towards the navel. Warm flannels were applied to the part affected, and bladders of hot water to her feet.

She drank beef-water and weak pimento tea for common drink ; and being extremely languid, was allowed a small quantity of white wine and light nourishment by turns.

On the 29th of *November* she was still weaker ; the heart almost ceasing to do its office, and the circulation being at the

lowest ebb. The next morning she calmly expired without any signs of pain, or the least convulsive struggle.

DISSECTION.

On opening the body, evident marks of inflammation appeared, particularly in the *abdomen*: A great part of the *omentum* was destroyed, and converted into *matter*, and what remained was become *gangrenous*; its diseased membranous expansions here and there overspread the *intestines*, and slightly adhered to their surface, which was also inflamed, particularly at their convolutions; those parts, from the additional effect of pressure, being as it were, superficially foldered together: That portion of the *omentum* which is inserted round the great curvature of the stomach, was also considerably inflamed.

The *uterus* had a natural appearance, and was perfectly sound, as well as all the parts peculiar to it.

The

The *liver* was also unaffected, except its peritonæal coat, which being dissolved by the inflammation, lay on its surface in a tender, gelatinous state. The *gall-bladder* was turgid with *bile*.

The *mediastinum* was inflamed, but the *lungs* were perfectly sound, and free from adhesion to the *pleura*.

The *whey-coloured, putrid fluid* contained in the cavity of the abdomen, was nearly the same in quantity and appearance as that in the former cases.

Where the pulse was extremely soft and weak, and the circulation languid ; it is difficult to account for so sudden and high a degree of inflammation, as to produce a collection of *matter*, or any inflammatory affection of the abdominal viscera: but so it was ; and therefore, in all such cases, where bleeding seems improper, it will be requisite, immediately to apply *sinapisms*, or a *blister* to the *umbilical region*.

C A S E XIV.

Hannah Jeffreys, of a strong, healthy constitution; the fourth day after delivery, which was natural, was seized with a *shivering fit*; succeeded by head-ach and great sickness at her stomach, with six bilious stools; she was affected with universal languor and frequent sighings, with great dejection of spirits; was very restless and thirsty, and had a smart, quick pulse.

A clyster with beef-water was given, and she diluted plentifully with warm balm-tea, but could not perspire.

The next morning, she had two purgative evacuations, and laboured under much anxiety and oppression at her breast: Broad, *purple-coloured spots* which rose a little above the surface of the skin, soon after appeared all over her body; they were very thick on her breast and face, but were not attended with any mitigation
of

of the symptoms, except for an hour or two in the beginning.

She took one of the *antimonial powders*, which was repeated every three or four hours, without any sensible evacuation whatever: Being no better in the evening, the eruption appearing *livid*, and her extremities being cold; a cordial julep was given her now and then; *blisters* were applied to the inside of her arms, and *cataplasms* to her feet; the emollient clyster was repeated, and she was allowed white-wine whey for common drink.

The two following days all the febrile symptoms increased, together with the difficulty of breathing; although the blisters, which had been applied, produced their proper effect; and thus growing gradually worse and worse, she died at four in the morning, on the 5th of May, 1761, being the ninth day from that of her delivery,

REMARKS.

R E M A R K S.

The causes from whence those *petechie* are said to happen, are so different, as to make a difference in their treatment, very essential to the patient's safety; for instance, if they arise from a putrid dissolution of the blood, they will require the use of the *bark*, with *acids*; and all such medicines as confirm its texture, and resist the putrefactive tendency prevailing in the habit; but if, on the contrary, they are produced by too violent a degree of the circulating power, which may occasion a rupture of the small arteries, and an extravasation of the sanguineous globules, then the former remedies are to be avoided; and such as diminish the action of the heart and arteries, will afford the most relief; viz. *bleeding*, *sedatives*, and a cooling regimen.

The first case is attended with exceeding danger, and very often proves fatal: Here, the pulse is generally quick and weak, and
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the loss of strength great and sudden ; on the contrary, in the second case, the pulse is hard and full, the artery vibrates more strongly, and the *spots* may sometimes be found, by the touch, to rise a little above the surface of the skin, which is usually hot and florid ; but it must be confessed, that some particular fevers are so indistinctly marked as to their species, and their symptoms so complicated and equivocal, that it is not a little difficult to know with certainty from what cause they arise.

This last case was the only one where the *omentum* was neither suppurated or become gangrenous ; there was indeed, some signs of slight inflammation, and a considerable quantity of fluid in the *abdomen*, which looked like the *serum* of blood ; but it was not purulent, as in the former cases. Hence it is probable, that a gradual accumulation of fluid in the *abdomen* commences before death, as the *lymphatics* lose their absorbent power, from a mere defect of the *vis vite*.

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We have been told, that the body has sometimes been observed to remain warm for several days after death, and that the limbs, instead of becoming stiff and rigid, continue soft and flexible : This extraordinary circumstance occurred to me once or twice ; and occasioned no small anxiety in the friends of the deceased, who looked upon it as a sign of some latent sparks of life ; and therefore would not permit interment of the body, until long after the usual time. But in reality, such appearances are strictly *morbid*, and instead of creating hope, should totally exclude it ; for they denote diseases highly putrid, and of a mortal nature. All animal bodies tend to a state of dissolution, as soon as the progressive motion of their fluids cease ; and this preternatural heat of the body seems owing to nothing more than an uncommon degree of that *putrefactive fermentation* which is known to generate *heat*.

With

With respect to the number of patients delivered, and likewise of those who died in the *Westminster New Lying-In hospital*; the account, as appears by the Hospital books, stands thus*: From the 20th of *April*, 1767, to the 30th of *November*, 1769; out of two hundred and eighty-five delivered, three had the *Child-bed Fever*; of whom, *Eliz. Waters*, and *Eliz. Becket* recovered; and *Susannah Vernon*, who had twins, died; also *Ann Moody*, of the *small-pox* the day after delivery.

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From

* This Hospital, supported by voluntary subscription, was opened for the reception of patients, so lately as the middle of the year 1767, and therefore, may as yet be considered in its infant state. The expence of raising the building, which is a *hundred feet in front*, was at first, a great deduction from the annual income; consequently, the number of patients admitted, was proportionally less; but as this charity, from its general utility, has hitherto met with great encouragement from the public, and as the hospital, in which are *ten wards*, is large enough to contain *seventy beds*; the governors hope, through the further assistance of the public-spirited and humane, soon to complete the whole, and to extend its benefits according to the plan originally proposed.

Near *Nine Hundred* patients have already been delivered, and an additional number, by order of the governors, will now be admitted; in consequence of several new subscribers, benefactions, and a second legacy, in the year 1773.

From the foregoing date, to the 15th of May, 1770, (being the *epidemical season*) out of sixty-three delivered, *nineteen* had the *Child-bed Fever*, besides others more slightly affected with it; of which number, eleven died in the hospital, and two more out of the house, who were removed at the request of their friends; namely, *Frances Williams* and *Mary Gammon*. *Elizabeth Kibblewhite*, also died of an inflammation in her bowels, during the above period.

From the 15th of May, 1770, to the 29th of September, 1772, out of *three hundred and five* delivered, two died, viz. *Sarah Evans*, and *Hannah Jeffreys*.

This fever was also *epidemical* in London in the year 1760, of which, twenty-four died in the *British Lying-In Hospital*, from the 12th of June, to the latter end of December; there being no instance of any such mortality in so short a time, till the year 1770, when it was again extremely fatal.

SECT-

S E C T I O N V.

*Of the Nature and Treatment of Uterine
Hæmorrhages, before and after Delivery.*

UTERINE Hæmorrhages and Convulsions, being two of the most dangerous and alarming maladies which can happen to pregnant women ; I am inclined to hope, that the observations contained in the two following sections will become useful ; especially, as they are drawn from experience, in the course of several years practice. Few authors have treated professedly or practically on those subjects ; for, it has been too much the custom of one, to copy and adopt the methods of another ; and to recommend them from hear-say, or on the authority of his predecessors, rather than from the test of his own experience ; to the great detriment of true medical knowledge.

A uterine hæmorrhage or flooding, is a preternatural discharge of blood from the cavity of the womb, arising from a separation of the *placenta* from its interior surface, which in general, may be looked upon as its immediate cause ; but the remote causes may be various : they may proceed from external violence, as blows, falls, or the over-exertion of the body in lifting heavy weights. Inflammatory fevers, the violent passions of the mind, or whatever will preternaturally increase the momentum of the blood on the uterine vessels, may also be productive of this discharge.

Nothing will so much contribute to the true knowledge of uterine hæmorrhages, as a due attention to the peculiar structure of the *placenta* and *gravid uterus*, and their attachment to each other ; this will not only more clearly point out the source from whence the blood proceeds, but also the degree of danger to the mother and child.

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The *placenta* may be looked upon as an apparatus or medium of intercourse, formed by nature for carrying on the circulation between the mother and child : It is not only made up by one umbilical vein and two arteries, which divide and subdivide till they become infinitely small ; but also by a considerable quantity of *cellular substance* every where interposed among the ramifications of those vessels : this cellular part is abundantly supplied with vessels from the uterus, but they are to be considered as a system distinct from that of the umbilical vessels, with which they have no communication ; for, the subtlest injections have never been found to pass into the one, by filling the other ; the first can only be injected from the uterus, the last from the body of the foetus.

Hence it appears, that there is a *two-fold circulation* going on in the placentary mass, and that although there is a continuation of vessels, and a *circulation of red blood between*

tween the uterus and placenta, there is none between the mother and child, by means of the umbilical vessels.

Indeed it has been matter of dispute, whether the ultimate branches of the placental vein anastomose with those of the uterus, so as to transmit red blood from the mother to the child; or whether they strike root in the uterus, and from thence only absorb a milky fluid for the nourishment of the foetus, which is afterwards converted into blood by the circulating power of its heart and arteries; in the same manner as blood is generated by the *chick in ovo*.

Arantius, a learned professor in the university of *Bologna*, I think, was the first who denied a circulation of red blood between the mother and child, by a continuation of vessels passing from the one to the other; and the rather, as he observes that there is no kind of proportion between the innumerable branches of the
pla-

placenary vessels, compared to those of the uterus, to render their *anastomosis*, in the least probable: “*Illud tandem hanc*
 “*vasorum unionem minime concedi posse attest-*
 “*tatur, quod nulla sit vasorum uteri cum innu-*
 “*meris umbilicalium radicibus, & capillamen-*
 “*tis proportio, eoque magis quod uteri vasa per*
 “*matricis propriam substantiam potius sangui-*
 “*nem effundant, quam ad internam superficiem*
 “*suis osculis pertingant *.*”

The late celebrated Dr. *Monro*, was of the same opinion: He imagined, that the extreme branches of the umbilical vein, took up the lymphatic part of the blood from the uterine sinus's, in the same manner that the *lacteals* absorb chyle from the cavity of the intestines †.

Perhaps it may be urged, that although the umbilical vein only receives a nutritious fluid from the uterus, yet the arteries must return their red blood to it, otherwise it would become redundant; but see-
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* *Arant. de Human. Foet. p. 24.*

† *Edin. Med. Essays, Vol. II. p. 133.*

ing that there is a free anastomosis between these vessels, in the substance of the placenta; the greatest part of that arterial blood supposed to be carried back to the uterus, is, in fact, taken up by the umbilical veins and returned to the child *. Indeed, the most accurate anatomists now seem to agree, that the ultimate branches both of the umbilical arteries and veins, reach the convex surface of the placenta, and proceed no further.

If we may compare vegetables with animals; it seems most likely, that the child in utero is at first nourished by the same absorbent power as roots in the earth; or like *parasite plants*, which draw their nourishment from the body into which they are inserted †. Perhaps it may also be a probable conjecture, that
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* According to *Robault*, only a seventh part of the arterial blood is returned by the umbilical arteries to the convex surface of the placenta.

† Vide *Parson's Analogy between the Propagation of animals and vegetables*.

the uterine vessels which enter the cellular substance of the placenta, may there deposit a nutritious lymph, which is afterwards absorbed by the extreme branches of the umbilical vein, for the service of the foetus.

From this reasoning, drawn from the structure of the parts; a circumstance, which has often appeared unaccountable, because it was imperfectly understood, will become more obvious and plain, viz. Why the child may survive in utero for a considerable time, and without being deprived of blood, although the mother is almost exhausted and brought to the point of death by an excessive loss of that fluid; for the blood, in flooding cases, is discharged immediately from those very vessels which spring from the uterus, and enter into the cellular substance of the placenta; and not from the extreme branches of the *funis umbilicalis* on its convex surface; the first being parts peculiar

to the uterus, the last, proper to the child.

The *false chorion* investing the exterior surface of the *placenta*, is also numerously supplied with those *uterine vessels*; and it may be laid down as a practical rule without exception, that whenever a large quantity of this tender *vascular membrane* comes away, attended with pain and a sanguineous discharge; it infallibly denotes a separation of the placenta from the uterus, and the patient will therefore necessarily *miscarry*, notwithstanding every attempt to prevent it; this reddish flaky substance, being as it were, the very cement and bond of union between those two parts.

Harvey asserts, that when the mother was even extinct and almost stiff with cold, he had often found the umbilical arteries beating, and the fœtus vigorous and strong: He also denies the anastomosis of vessels between the placenta and uterus.

“ Imo vero in ejusmodi Cæsonibus, mem-
 “ brana chorio etiamnum obvolutis, sæpe re-
 “ peri (matre jam extincta & plane rigida)
 “ arterias umbilicales micantes, fætumque ve-
 “ getum. Quare haud verum est spiritus a
 “ matre per arterias ad fætum pertingere :
 “ Nec magis verum vasa fœtus umbilicalia
 “ cum uteri vasis per Anastomofin con-
 “ jungi *.”

A new-born child will live many hours
 after the birth without nourishment ;
 for it then exists by a circulation of its
 own, and being replete with blood and
 juices, stands in no immediate need of an
 additional supply ; in like manner, it will
 continue alive for a given time in utero,
 when cut off from all communication with
 the mother ; that is, after a separation of
 the placenta ; but although it there re-
 ceives no red blood, it must necessarily
 languish and die at last from the want of

High spirit & lymph,

* Harv. Op. a Colleg. Medic. London, edit. p. 590.

lymph, or that nutritious something which is essential to life ; like a tender plant, which cannot long subsist without the use of water, or refreshing showers *.

Such fluxes of blood as happen after delivery may be brought on by the violent extraction of the *placenta* ; by the distention of the uterus in twin-cases, from a second child ; or by a defect of its contractive power, from a general weakness of the solid system.

Uterine hæmorrhages are more or less dangerous, in proportion as the patient is advanced in the time of her pregnancy. In the first two or three months, the embryo enjoys little more than vegetable life ; the vessels connecting it to the *uterus* being very small ; consequently, the blood is then discharged by such flow and insensible degrees, that there is generally time to supply the loss, by replenishing them with nourishing fluids, so as to keep up the circulation.

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* Vide, Greg. Nymman, de Vita Fœtus in Utero.

When this is the case, the patient will often sustain the loss of a large quantity of blood, without much diminution of strength; but on the contrary, when the discharge is great and sudden, the event is frequently fatal; and the rather if it happens in the last months of pregnancy, when the uterine vessels are become large and replete with blood.

The vast profusion of this fluid gives so sudden a check to the circulation, that there is not a sufficient quantity returned to the heart to keep it in due motion; so that its action either languishes for a time, and the patient faints; or wholly ceases, and she expires in a *syncope**.

Floodings from violent bruises or falls, are generally of the worst consequence; for the patient is then not only in danger simply

* According to *Haller's* doctrine, the motion of the heart principally depends on the irritability of the right auricle, which is stimulated into motion, by the influx of blood from the *vena cava*.

simply from the loss of blood, but also from the nature of the injury itself. They are also extremely fallacious and fatal in the last months of pregnancy, as they will frequently cease for a time, and remove the appearance of danger ; but as often suddenly return, and sometimes carry her off before there is time to effect the delivery, which is the only expedient, in such cases, that can possibly save her life.

When the uterus is emptied of its contents, it contracts, and gradually becomes less in bulk, especially if the vital powers of the body are not much impaired by the preceding discharge ; consequently the current of blood in the branches of the *hypogastric* and *spermatic arteries* will begin to meet with resistance, and its momentum on the bleeding orifices of these vessels being considerably diminished, the flooding will then either abate or totally cease ; so that a dextrous operator will sometimes be able to do more for the safety of the patient

patient by manual operation, than could possibly be effected by the most skilful application of medicines.

When any part of the placenta has been separated from the uterus, it will never afterwards adhere ; as appears after delivery ; for that precise quantity of it which was disunited, is plainly pointed out, by being covered with black, coagulated blood. Hence the reason is obvious, why those hæmorrhages which go off for a time, are so extremely dangerous by their sudden return ; for they do not cease because there is a re-union of the divided vessels, but because the circulation languishes, from the profuse loss of blood, so that the patient faints ; during which interval, its impulse is diminished, and the vessels being freed from their distending power, will not only gradually contract from the natural cohesion of their parts ; but the blood being almost in a
state

state of rest, will coagulate, and as it were, seal up their orifices.

Here it is necessary to remark that pernicious and destructive method of giving *heating cordials* or *spirituous liquors*, with a view to revive the patient; to which, many have unhappily fallen victims; yet it is still so prevalent, especially among the lower class of people, that it never can be sufficiently discountenanced, or its danger too fully pointed out. Many women, during their *fainting fits*, are plentifully supplied with warm spiced wine or caudle, with the addition of brandy; which will increase the motion of the blood, and again force open the bleeding vessels; and thus they will alternately continue to flood and faint till the hour of death: The design of such proceedings may be good, but the consequence will be fatal.

Although nothing is more difficult than to root out prejudice from ignorant minds; yet, he who will conform to vulgar

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gar errors at the expence of his patient's safety, and is afraid to oppose them lest his own interest should suffer, acts below the dignity of his profession, and the principles of an honest man.

If the most unintelligent of mankind was asked, whether a person over-heated with strong liquor, or one half-chilled to death with cold, would bleed most profusely on receiving a wound in any part of his body? surely, he would reply, the former: The case is similar in respect to *Uterine Hæmorrhages*; yet, such is the prevalence of custom, that the method of giving cordials, as they are called, is still obstinately followed, contrary to all experience, as well as reason and common sense.

Those who consider the origin and distribution of the *hypogastric* and *spermatic arteries*, which branch off from large trunks, and numerously supply the uterus; must needs perceive with what ra-

pidity the blood passes through those vessels; particularly the first, which are very large in the gravid state; and consequently, how soon the patient may be exhausted in profuse floodings, especially in plethoric habits, or where the action of the heart and arteries is increased by spirituous liquors, or a heating regimen*.

Under such circumstances, the best cordials are those fluids which replenish the empty vessels, without heating the body; and therefore, broths prepared from animal substances, jellies, and the like, are, of all others, the fittest to afford expeditious nourishment; as they will soon be assimilated, and converted into blood, without much assistance from the stomach or vital powers, which at this time are much impaired.

To subjoin particular histories of flooding cases, would prove of little use to a practical reader; since profuse discharges
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* Vide *Hawson's Accurate Experiments on the Blood.*

of blood happening in the last months of pregnancy, are generally such, as no medicines have power to remove ; for as long as the uterus remains in a state of distension, so long will its vessels continue to pour out blood, especially where a large quantity of the *placenta* is separated from it : and therefore, it would be very unsafe to expect from medicines, what can only be brought about by a speedy delivery ; which produces a *mechanical change* in the structure of that organ by removing its contents.

But although this is the principal expedient, and the most effectual remedy in such cases ; yet, unfortunately, it does not always secure the patient from future danger ; for the force and energy with which the uterus contracts, being in proportion to the bodily strength, rather than the length of time the patient has been delivered ; whenever that is greatly diminished, the flux of blood may

still continue. This is the reason why a flooding before delivery sometimes occasions the like discharge afterwards. In the several bodies which were opened, when the *Child-bed Fever* proved mortal; I had a good opportunity of ascertaining this fact, and constantly found that where the patient was strong, and not invaded with the fever till later than usual; there the uterus was greatly diminished in bulk; but on the contrary, where she was naturally weak, or rendered so by a sudden attack of the disease; it then became inert, and was found less firm and contracted.

Puzos particularly takes notice, that when the uterus contracts imperfectly after delivery, the consequence is dangerous; and also remarks, that after the patient is delivered by turning the child; she often dies in consequence of the violence applied, or by a continuance of the discharge: he asserts, that floodings are most profuse when the labour-pains are weakest;

est ; and therefore concludes, it would be right in such cases, to procure pain artificially, by dilating the os uteri ; which puts the uterus into a state of contraction, by which the child is at last expelled. This he calls the happy medium between a natural delivery, and that which is forced, by violently turning the child ; and assures us, that by this method he had been extremely successful,

I remember an instance of the good effect of this method, in a gentlewoman to whom I was called in *York Buildings*, about three years ago : From Sunday evening till the Tuesday following about twelve o'clock, at which time I was desired to visit her, the flooding had continued profuse.

She was attended by her midwife, and had drank plentifully of port wine, in which a hot iron had been quenched to render it the more astringent, as I suppose : her aspect was pale and death-like, and she frequently fainted ; her pulse was almost impercept-

imperceptible, and she seemed sinking very fast.

The full time of her reckoning was expired ; but as her strength was much exhausted, the labour-pains were inconsiderable, and the os uteri but little dilated. I immediately broke the membranes, that the resistance to the languid contraction of the uterus might be less, and supplied her plentifully with *veal broth*, made moderately strong, but without any salt or spices: Of this nourishing fluid, given cold, she swallowed a tea-cupful, or as much as her stomach would bear, every quarter of an hour, having taken nothing of the like kind before. The cold, fresh air, was also freely admitted into her chamber, which seemed to give her new life ; for she found her strength and spirits, as well as her pains, increase very fast ; and by dilating the os uteri, they at last became so strong as to effect the birth before the evening ; without the danger or trouble of turning
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the child ; which, notwithstanding the vast discharge of blood, was born *vigorous and strong* ; agreeable to which, I have particularly remarked elsewhere.

A curious example of the efficacy and reficient quality of nourishing fluids in sustaining life and restoring the strength, even when the assimilating powers of the body were not sufficient to convert them into blood, is mentioned by *Lower* in his book *De Corde*, viz *. *Adolescenti sedecim annos nato cum magna sanguinis copia (qua de causa non refert) perbiduum continuo erumperet, neque medicamentis aut arte ulla cohiberi potuit ; jussulis cum reficere & recreare amici & astantes curarunt ; cumque ea valde avidè expeteret atque assumeret, fluxus subinde concitator quoque factus est, & tandem res eo devenit, ut massa sanguinis fere tota emissa, quicquid jam efflueret, dilutum & pallidum, sanguinis neque naturam neque speciem pre se ferret, ipsi jussulo quod toties hauserat quam sanguini similis :*

Atque

256 NATURE and TREATMENT of

Atque eadem forma per diem unum aut alterum duravit hic aqueus fluxus, constante interim cordi motu suo, donec fluxu demum consopito juvenis paulatim integræ salutis restitutus est, & exinde in virum robustum & quadratum accrevit.

In order to know whether *topical applications, medicines, or manual operation*, will most effectually relieve the patient in uterine hæmorrhages; their various causes are to be attentively considered, together with the several circumstances of the case; also her habit of body, and the different state of the uterus before and after delivery.

In those fluxes of blood which happen during labour, and at the full expiration of pregnancy; it will be proper to break the membranes; for the uterus will contract after the discharge of the waters, and the floodings will therefore be diminished; particularly, as the bleeding vessels will then be brought into contact with the body of the child, as it were, by compress and bandage. But as this method only
procures

procures relief to a certain degree, if the symptoms become urgent, and the labour does not quickly advance, the patient ought to be delivered as soon as possible.

When the child's head shuts up the os uteri, the patient may continue to lose blood profusely into the cavity of the womb, although none externally appears; this is to be feared when her pulse sinks, attended with great faintness and sudden loss of strength, without any evident cause; and will best be known by pressing up the head in the absence of the labour-pains, so as to let the confined blood escape. Such cases are extremely dangerous and fallacious, where the operator is not on his guard.

Sometimes the *placenta* has been found presenting loose at the os uteri, and at other times to adhere to that part; in both cases, especially the first, a flooding will happen, attended with great danger; and therefore will require speedy deli-

very, which may be effected either by the *forceps* or turning the child, as appears most eligible from different circumstances; for as the whole placentary mass is separated from the womb, the least delay would prove fatal to the patient.

Those hæmorrhages which happen where the child has long been dead in utero, are also attended with imminent danger; because as there is then no longer any circulation in the *placenta*, it will at length separate from the uterus, and the patient will be almost in the same situation as where it presented loose, although it does not carry with it an appearance so alarming.

January the 20th, 1765, I was sent for to Mrs. G—, a gentlewoman in *Piccadilly*, who was seized with a flux of blood from the uterus, near the full time of pregnancy; as it was not profuse, and her strength and spirits were good, I waited for some hours in expectation of stronger pains, but as the discharge seemed to go off,

off, and she was disposed to sleep, I left her, and desired to be called if it returned with violence, or when the pains became stronger. When I returned the next day, they were inconsiderable, and the os uteri was very little dilated; but though she continued to lose blood, her strength seemed very little impaired: In this situation she remained several days, during which, she took a decoction of *bark*, with the *tinct. rosar. r.* and a few drops of the *tinct. thebaic.*

At last the discharge became intolerably putrid, and was soon after followed by a large secretion of *milk*, which flowed from her breasts by the slightest pressure: The flooding now began to increase very much; she grew weak and faint, and certainly would soon have sunk under the discharge, had she not been speedily delivered.

The child had probably been dead about three days before the secretion of

milk, which began as soon as the *placenta* was separated from the womb; for then the hæmorrhage was observed to increase. The same circumstance may happen when the foetus in utero is weak, and the absorbing power of the *placenta* from thence in part destroyed; agreeable to what is laid down by *Hippocrates* in his Aphor. viz. *Mulieri in utero gerenti, si multum lactis ex mammis fluxerit, infirmum fœtum significat* *.

In strong habits, where the uterine fibres are tense, the flooding generally stops, and the *placenta* is easily excluded soon after delivery, being before separated in part from the womb; but on the contrary, when the patient is very weak, a much longer time is then required for its coming away: and if it should be unwarily extracted before the uterus has had sufficient time to contract, or where it afterwards continues loose and inactive; a
mortal

* Sect. v. Aphor. 52.

mortal hæmorrhage may chance to ensue. Indeed it sometimes happens that the loss of blood is profuse, even after delivery, where the placenta remains ; under which circumstance it may be proper immediately to take it away : Here the action of the uterus is so extremely languid, that it has not power either to expel the placenta, or the large quantity of coagulated blood collected in its cavity : A fatal instance of this kind occurred to me in the year 1770, in the case of Mrs. W—— near Westminster-Bridge, to whom I was called about an hour and a half after she had been delivered by her midwife.

The internal use of medicines, as far as I have observed, ought never solely to be depended upon in such cases ; for although they may afford some relief in a certain time ; the patient would generally bleed to death before they could take effect ; and therefore immediate recourse must be had to topical applications ; such as *oxy-*
crate

crate or *sharp vinegar*, in which thick linen compresses have even dipped, and which are to be applied cold to the belly and loins, and renewed as soon as they grow warm, otherwise they will relax rather than constrict.

Gentle pressure on the belly, by means of a broad circular roller, will also prove of service, by resisting the too rapid course of the blood through the uterus, and also by assisting its languid contraction.

The patient should be kept very cool, and if necessary, exposed to the *cold air*, even in the midst of winter, by opening the doors and windows, so as to let it be equally diffused round her chamber; her drinks should be given cold, and acidulated with *lemon-juice* or mineral acids; and if ever the use of *styptics* can prove of service, perhaps it may be here; where the uterus, although empty, has not the power of being restored to its former state. I have found a strong *decoction of the bark*
and

and *elixir of vitriol*, together with a small quantity of the tincture of cinnamon to make it grateful, more efficacious than any thing I have seen tried.

The form may be varied at discretion, and if necessary, the extract may be added, viz.

R.

Decoct. Peruv. Cort. ℥i

Extract. ejusd. moll. ℥i

Tinct. Rosar. rub. ℥ss

— *Cinn.* ℥iij

Confect. Alkerm. ℥j fiat haustus pro re nata exhibendus.

When the discharge is attended with much pain or irritation of the uterus; five or more drops of the *thebaic tincture* may be joined with each draught; or, what will produce its effect with more certainty, a liberal dose of the *pil. e sty-race*, or the *extract. thebaic*. The first may be given from two to six grains, and the last from half a grain to a grain and a half,

half, which may be repeated if occasion requires; especially, where the habit is not plethoric, and when the symptoms are extremely urgent.

If all those methods fail, and the patient is in immediate danger; the *aqua aluminosa bateana*, or a weak solution of *colcothar of vitriol*, injected into the cavity of the uterus as a styptic, will probably restrain the discharge; by coming into immediate contact with the orifices of the bleeding vessels; but those remedies are only applicable after delivery, when it is empty and uncontracted.

Hoffman tells us, he succeeded in stopping a profuse *uterine hæmorrhage*, which had withstood every other method, by passing up *pledgets of lint*, dipped in a solution of *colcothar of vitriol*, as high into the vagina as possible; and as the patient afterwards conceived, and had a happy delivery, he observes, that the functions of the uterus were not in the least

least injured by the styptic power of this application.

Levret hit upon a very odd, but ingenious expedient in stopping a violent flooding after delivery, which otherwise would soon have proved fatal: He introduced a piece of *ice* into the uterus, which being struck with a sudden chill, immediately contracted, and put a stop to the hæmorrhage.

The most extraordinary instance of a flux of blood from the womb, which I have ever heard of, fell under the observation of the late Dr. *Cole*, who, some years ago, practised midwifery in *London* with great reputation: On opening the body, the whole surface of the *placenta* was found adhering to the uterus; but a great part of the *false chorion* investing the membranous bag which contains the child, was separated from it; and consequently, an infinite number of those vessels with which it is supplied from the uterus, be-

ing torn afunder, the effusion of blood was fo great as to become mortal. From what caufe this accident was brought about, I have not been able to inform myfelf. Thofe flight difcharges, which fometimes go off, and allow the patient to proceed the full period of geftation; have been imputed to a lofs of blood from the *false chorion* of the bag only; and not to a feparation of the *placenta* itfelf; and indeed, notwithstanding what has already been faid, I am ftill inclined to think fo; for whenever any part of the laft is dif-united from the uterus; there is the greateft reafon to fuppofe it will never again adhere; although *Noortwyk*, in his hiftory of the gravid uterus, has afferted the contrary*.

Some floodings have occurred, attended with very uncommon circumftances; for inftance, the celebrated *Albinus* mentions a cafe, where only the central part of the
 placenta

* *Noortwyk de Uter. Gravid.* p. 28.

placenta being loosened, a large quantity of coagulated blood was lodged between it and the uterus, as it were in a bag; and consequently, not a drop was externally discharged, so as to foretel the danger.

Sometimes the blood has been found to proceed from the vagina; and at other times from a rupture of the large vessels on the concave surface of the placenta, or even in the funis itself; which must necessarily soon prove fatal to the child, but will not proportionably endanger the mother. The preternatural shortness of the funis, or its being twisted round the child's neck, have also been supposed to bring on a flooding; for if it then moves powerfully, the placenta may be torn from the uterus.

Whatever subjects the body to violent motion, or agitates the mind, should be carefully avoided; as it has already been shewn in treating of the *Child-bed Fever*, at

page 87. how much the force of circulating blood on its vessels is increased by muscular motion: Coughing, sneezing, a tenesmus, or other efforts which lay stress on the womb, all tend, in a certain degree, to destroy its union with the contained parts; especially, immoderate exercise in the last months of pregnancy, when the child is large and ponderous.

The passions of the mind, especially sudden terror, have also frequently been known to produce this disorder; a very remarkable instance of which is related by *Salmuth*, as follows* :

Archiatri Anhaltini, D. S. K. conjunx puerpera lactat infantem sub noctem. Per jocum a mulieribus quibusdam ex convivio domum tendentibus fores & fenestræ nimis impetuose pulsantur. Illa hinc admodum perterrita, totoq. corpore contremiscente, repente excitatur profluvium mensium, in annum integrum perdurans,
VI & adeo

* *Salm. Obser. Med. Cent. 3. xlix.*

Et adeo quidem copiosum, ut per stragula etiam deflueret, atque ex eo ipsa tandem moreretur.

Some years ago, I was desired to visit a gentlewoman near *Berkley-Square*, who was seized with a flooding from the over-hasty extraction of the *placenta*; by which she was reduced to the last degree of weakness: I desired she might be kept extremely quiet, and supplied with frequent nourishment; I also directed a mixture with *tincture of roses* and the soft extract of *bark*, &c. of which she took two spoonfuls as often as her stomach could bear: In a short time she found herself much recovered, but towards the morning, by only turning herself hastily in bed, the discharge immediately returned in great abundance. I was again called, and found her to all appearance at the point of death; but by the application of thick compresses dipped in cold vinegar, to the belly and loins, together with the same method as before, she at last perfectly recovered.

Excessive

Excessive anger or sudden fear produce a spasm, or contraction of the vascular system, by which the blood is driven from the surface to the centre of the body ; as is evident from the paleness of the face, which is instantly followed by a throbbing and palpitation at the heart ; soon after, the countenance becomes florid, from the re-action of the heart and arteries, which throws out the blood to the surface again : Hence, during the spasm, the venous blood is violently driven to the right auricle ; and consequently, the velocity of the arterial blood discharged from the left ventricle into the *aorta descendens* will be considerably increased, as well as that circulating through the arteries of the womb ; from which the placenta may be forced away, and a hæmorrhage ensue.

This tumult in the body is produced by the nervous influence which affects it like a slight electric shock : accordingly, women of delicate constitutions, whose

nervous

nervous system is extremely irritable, are, of all others; the most subject to those complaints; I have likewise observed, in such habits where the patient was not pregnant, and the *uterus*, therefore, not susceptible of the impression; that pain in the bowels or a diarrhœa have often been brought on, and sometimes a dangerous fever; particularly when the former did not happen.

Bleeding and *styptics*, together with the liberal use of *opium*, and the application of *ligatures* to the extremities of the body, are the remedies which have been principally depended upon, and directed in their turn for the cure of *uterine hæmorrhages*; and therefore, it will be necessary and useful to examine their several effects.

By attending to the circulation, it is evident, that *bleeding* can seldom be proper, except in the beginning of those floodings which happen before delivery; or when they arise from a plethora;

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an inflammatory fever, or external violence. Sometimes, indeed, if the patient should be threatened with this malady, after any violent surprize, it may also be requisite ; but as in general, weakly, hysterical women, who have been observed to bear the loss of blood with inconvenience, are the oftenest thus affected, it should be directed with great caution ; especially, as *opiates* and the *warm bath* will answer much better, by dissolving the spasm and soothing the nerves into a state of tranquillity.

Besides ; it has been proved that the contraction of the uterus after delivery, upon which the abatement of this discharge chiefly depends, will be in proportion to the bodily strength ; and therefore, an additional loss of blood from the arm at that period, would further endanger the patient, both by diminishing the action of the womb, and by giving so sudden a check to the circulation, as might occasion dan-

dangerous faintings; or perhaps a mortal syncope.

Styptic medicines have been supposed to restrain internal hæmorrhages, by entering the blood, and constringing the orifices of the bleeding vessels; and have therefore been accounted salutary and efficacious in those complaints; but upon how unjust a foundation, I appeal to common experience.

If styptics produce their effect by contracting the vessels, they must also increase their action on the contained blood; for it will be nearly the same thing, with respect to the velocity of the blood; whether its vessels are preternaturally filled, when their diameters remain the same as before, or whether their diameters are preternaturally lessened, when their quantity of blood is the same; or in other words, when the same quantity of blood is contained in a narrower space, its vessels will from thence become fuller. For

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example; if a certain quantity of any fluid is forced through two flexible tubes of different diameters, but of the same length, and in the same given time; its velocity in the smallest tube will necessarily be greater than in the other: Hence it becomes manifest, that if styptic or astringent medicines act by contracting the orifices of the bleeding vessels; they must also act universally on the vascular system; and if so, that by lessening the diameters of the several vessels, their action on the contained blood will be increased, which must also necessarily increase the flooding.

If it should be alleged that they operate by coagulating the blood, and not by bracing its vessels; or that, like *opium*, they produce their effect by the mediation of the nerves of the stomach, without entering the blood at all; it is to be remarked, that whatever thickens the blood, will, most probably, also constrict its vessels: In short, by what means soever they affect
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the habit ; it is plain, that a hæmorrhage can only be stopped either by such things as contract the ruptured vessels, or diminish the force of the fluid passing through them ; The first of these effects has already been considered ; and the last must needs be denied ; since what occasions *thirst and fever*, cannot properly be said to lessen the circulating power, but to increase it.

No wonder then that *Hoffman* asserts, he has often seen Uterine Hæmorrhages increased by styptics, but also obstinate complaints of the chronical kind, such as cachexy, dropfy, or hectic fever, brought on by their preposterous use. Agreeable to what is advanced by that excellent practical physician, I have seldom ever known the *pulv. stypt.* the *tinct. saturnin.* or other powerful astringents, given in such cases, without an increase of the hæmorrhage, or some other bad effect : That they will generally render the body costive, and often create great thirst, head-ach,

and other febrile symptoms, is certain; but the chronical complaints, with which they are charged, were more probably owing to the profuse loss of blood happening at the time they were administered, than to the subsequent injurious qualities of those medicines: However, the following instance, as well as several others, which it would here be unnecessary to mention, will shew that they are not void of danger, and therefore, ought to be directed with the utmost caution.

In the year 1779, a lady in *Stanhope-Street, May-Fair*, of a very delicate, valedudinary habit, had been long subject to the *fluor albus*, as well as an immoderate flow of the menses at undue periods, which had very much reduced her strength: By the advice of an eminent physician, she took the *sacch. saturn.* in a bolus, twice a-day, and continued it upwards of a week; but did not find that it either restrained the discharge, or had any good effect

effect respecting her bodily strength; on the contrary, it at last brought on an obstinate constipation of the bowels, attended with such racking, colic pains, and oppression at the stomach, as obliged her to keep her body almost double. Being desired to visit her, I directed draughts with *manna* and *ol. amygd.* together with *emollient clysters*, and the *warm bath*; she also drank warm veal broth by intervals: After two or three lax stools, she was much easier; but as the soreness of her bowels continued, she took an *emulsion* with *sperm. ceti*, for a few days, which removed it; and afterwards, by the use of a strong decoction of *bark*, with an *injection* and the chalybeate waters, she was entirely freed from the fluor albus and all her other complaints.

Internal hæmorrhages will often at last spontaneously cease, without the assistance of any medicines whatever, especially when
profuse;

profuse; for as the power of the heart on the circulating blood will then be greatly diminished; its momentum on the bleeding vessels will be rendered considerably less; and it has already been remarked, that they will naturally contract when freed from their distending power. From this circumstance, there is reason to think that the cessation of this discharge is not owing to such medicines; but to a diminution of the circulating force from mere loss of strength.

Instead therefore of bracing the solids, it would be more proper to recur to the use of those things which have a power to relax, and as it were, to suspend their action: Such medicines are called *sedatives*, and are supposed not only to lessen the circulating force, but to produce a more equal distribution of the blood, and to occasion the derivation of a larger quantity from the interior vessels to the surface of the body: Hence the uterine arteries

will

will be relieved from their distention, and the flux of blood proceeding from thence will consequently be less. To this end, the fourth part of a grain of *emetic tartar* may be given, and repeated by due intervals, so as only to excite a slight nausea, without vomiting; also the *saline draughts*, with *nitre*; or the *sal sedativus* of *Homborgh*, from five grains to a scruple: In what manner such medicines operate, it is difficult to determine; but that they often have a salutary effect, is clear from experience.

How far the effect of *opiates* may be depended upon, or under what circumstances they are pernicious in flooding cases, it will next be necessary to enquire. From some experiments made by Dr. *Alston* on frogs, it appears, that *opium*, taken internally, will for a time, retard the blood's motion, by diminishing the vital powers of the heart; and this circumstance, so far as it regards those small aquatic animals, is still further confirmed
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by that learned and incomparable phyfiologist the late Dr. *Whytt*: Such experiments are pleasing and curious, but the inferences arising from them, when applied to the human body, are not so conclusive and satisfactory, as they may at first appear; for many substances which produce a mortal effect on one species of animals, are not found injurious to another; and the same animal is very differently affected by the same thing, at different times: Would it not therefore, be a more certain way to determine the effects of *opium* on human bodies, by attending particularly to its operation, when given to such bodies only?

In some cases, where it was necessary to direct *opiates* for women, at the beginning of labour; to remove their unprofitable pains and procure sleep, I have been surpris'd to find they had a very contrary effect, and that the pains were evidently much increased.

Dr. *Young*, who wrote professedly on *opium*, is the only author I know, that takes notice of the same thing: His observations are founded on long and extensive experience, which he candidly confesses often contradicted the opinions he had adopted from theory; consequently he frequently changed his methods of practice; and it is much to be wished that an example so laudable, was more universally followed: Indeed, the greatest part of his book appears to be a true history of the effects of this extraordinary medicine; and as he rather relates what he saw, than what he expected to see; his authority is the more to be regarded.

The illustrious *Baron Haller*, in his dissertation on the irritable parts of animals, observes; that although *opium* destroys the peristaltic motion of the intestines, and the irritability of the body in general; it leaves the force and motion of the heart

unimpaired. What I have seen of its effects on the human body, exactly corresponds with this remark; for though it may suspend some of the secretions, it rather *quickens the blood's motion*, than retards it: For instance, a moderate dose of it will strengthen and enlarge the pulse, the eyes sparkle, the countenance becomes florid, and a heat and itching of the skin succeeds; but what appears most extraordinary; those pains which have sometimes been increased by it, in a small quantity, have been speedily removed by giving a more liberal dose: In short, I have clearly seen internal hæmorrhages rather increased than lessened by its use; and therefore, think it ought not to be given, except in cases of necessity; as its effects are evidently similar to those of volatile medicines, or strong cordials.

In the beginning of those floodings which arise from plethora; a fever, or external violence, especially where the *pulse is*
hard,

hard, and the skin dry ; both *opiates* and *styptics* are highly pernicious. *Bleeding*, *laxatives*, and *spare diet*, with a cooling regimen, are best adapted to answer the intention of cure. The judicious *Hoffman*, therefore, with great reason, directs the liberal use of *spring water*, with *spirits of vitriol* and *syrup of red poppies*, as a medicine more salutary than the most boasted specifics : On the contrary, in the decline of those discharges, where the *pulse* is *weak*, and the *circulation languid*, from the loss of much blood, it will be proper to keep the patient in a horizontal position, lest she should faint. A *decoction of the bark*, and even cordial medicines, may also, sometimes, be administered ; especially, after delivery, where there is always less danger of the flooding's return ; the resistance to the contraction of the uterus being then taken away. Nourishment should be given often, and in small quantities, that the empty vessels may be

replenished by degrees ; otherwise, as the stomach is weak, and the assimilating powers of the body much impaired, the patient will be apt to fall into a *dropsy*, *consumption*, or *hectic fever*.

The ancients applied *ligatures* to the inferior extremities, for the relief of uterine hæmorrhages ; from which it may be concluded, that they knew more of the circulation than has been imagined ; for, it is plain they had recourse to this method with a view to retard the venous blood in its return to the heart, and consequently to abate the circulating force ; But this practice does not seem to be just, neither is it found experimentally useful ; but on the contrary, dangerous and irrational.

Let us suppose, for instance, that a column of blood is driven down the *aorta descendens*, by the action of the heart, and that it is distributed to the lower extremities, by the division and subdivision of the
iliacæ

iliac arteries, from which, the *uterus* at last receives its blood: The extreme branches of all these arteries have corresponding veins, which take up their blood by *anastomosis*, and after uniting and re-uniting, they form the *vena cava* inferior, or one large trunk, which returns blood from the inferior parts of the body, to the right auricle of the heart; if therefore from any compression of those veins, the reflux of their blood is prevented, they cannot then freely receive it from the arteries; consequently, the *hypogastrics* and *spermaties* which supply the *uterus* with blood, will become over-charged and distended, and the patient will flood the more abundantly; as the following ingenious experiment will clearly demonstrate.

Dr. *Hamilton* of *Edinburgh*, being called to a young woman who had laboured under an obstruction of the *menfes* for near seven months, from catching cold; and finding that various remedies had been
tried

tried in vain; directed longitudinal compresses to be applied tight upon the *crural arteries*, by means of a tourniquet, which after remaining about twenty minutes, rendered the pulse quicker; in half an hour, she began to perceive a sense of weight and fulness in the region of the uterus, and in an hour and a half after the first application of the ligatures, the menses began to flow.

If it should be alleged, that the effect here produced, was owing to the compression of the *arteries*, and not the *veins*; it may be replied, that the means made use of to compress the first, must necessarily have the same effect on the other: But setting this reasoning aside; if simple pressure on the *crural arteries* has been known to bring on the menses, after a long obstruction, by impeding the direct course of the blood, and throwing a larger quantity on the *uterine vessels*; so would the the same degree of pressure when applied

to the *veins* themselves; which may be looked upon as so many reflected arteries, void of pulsation, because of their distance from the heart, which cannot extend its influence beyond the *anastomoses* of these two orders of vessels.

Having laid before the reader such general remedies as have been thought most conducive to the relief of that dangerous *malady* under consideration; and also pointed out the pernicious tendency of a heating regimen, or the exhibition of cordial medicines; I shall now endeavour to shew the good effect of a *contrary method*, both as supported by reason, and experience; at the same time confessing, that the perusal of Dr. *Stevenson's* ingenious Essay on the effect of heat and cold on human bodies *, and afterwards, what I had read in the Commentaries of the celebrated *Baron Van Swieten*, in some measure, first suggested to me the propriety and expediency of

* Edinburgh Medical Essays, vol vi. p. 871.

of such practice. The first of those authors has very sensibly refuted the absurd doctrine of *derivation* and *revulsion*; and shews, that the *pediluvium*, or application of warm water to the feet, the effect of which was supposed to depend upon those principles; is owing to a cause directly contrary to that hitherto assigned; as the following experiment will clearly evince.

Dr. *Stevenson* caused two youths to put their legs into warm water, and whilst they continued there, he counted their pulses by a watch measuring seconds, according to the different degrees of heat in the water, which was gradually increased and applied from time to time: At eight o'clock in the evening, the pulse of the first, beat sixty-six; and that of the second, eighty-four. As the heat was increased, they began to breathe quicker, their countenance became florid, the veins of the face and hands were much distended, and the pulse increased in proportion; in the first,

first, it beat eighty, and in the second, ninety-eight strokes in a minute. In the above experiment, both their pulses, which in the beginning, were soft and small, became very full and hard; and not only the parts immersed in water, but the whole body was swelled: The pulses of the wrists and temples also beat fuller and quicker, as well as those arteries derived from the *aorta descendens*; and consequently, there could be no *revulsion*. The legs being then removed out of the warm water; in about half an hour's time, all the above symptoms of fulness went off, and the pulse in each, gradually returned to its former state.

From these premises, the Doctor, with reason, concludes; that the blood passing through the vessels of the legs, being heated by the *pediluvium*, imparts its additional warmth to the general mass; which being rarefied, takes up a larger space in the vessels, and circulates with

more rapidity than before ; and thus every part of the body is affected with a sense of fulness : Hence, he infers the great danger of this application in *hæmorrhages* from the nose or lungs, or in disorders of the head or breast, arising from plenitude ; cases where it was often formerly applied, and must as often have been destructive to the patient. What is ancient or modern, is not therefore right or wrong ; though this is not the only instance where things however preposterous and absurd, have derived such sanction from antiquity, as to render them the standard of future practice.

Van Swieten, in treating of the diseases of virgins, expresses himself in the following manner :

Cum autem pedes & crura ab iliacis arteriis externis sua vasa accipiant, uterus ab hypogastricis non tantum, sed ab iliacis externis etiam, & variis inter se anastomosibus communicent (uti

in tabulis Eustachianis (1) videri potest) facile patet, quare, per balnea laxatis pedum vasis, & dein per frictiones accelerato motu in iisdem, major copia sanguinis derivetur versus aortum, ubi in iliacas dividitur, adeoque & magis tunc urgeantur uteri vasa; sicque sperari possit, illorum extrema ita dilatari posse, ut menstruum fluorem dimittant.

Simul notandum est, practicis observatis constare, calorem pedum prodesse menstruantibus; frigus autem nocere; imo quandoque subito menstrua supprimi, si admodum frigescant pedes; quod sæpius observavi; præcipue si pavimento marmoreo frigido pedibus insistant diu. Solent enim ab hac causa sola, contractis spasmodice intestinis, dolores colici oriri molestissimi, in quibus magnum levamen sentitur, si pedes incaluerint, imprimis per frictiones. Omnia enim abdominis viscera male afficiuntur, dum pedes intense frigent; adeoque mirum non est, & uteri vasa stringi, sicque supprimi fluorem menstruum.

The experiment mentioned by the first author, is a clear and satisfactory illustration of the effect of *heat* on the human body; and the practical observations of the latter, as appears by the above quotation, as sufficiently demonstrate the action of *cold*, in constringing the vessels of the uterus, and suppressing the menses, even when applied to the feet only; from whence, I would propose the following question; viz. If the *topical application of cold* to the feet, has been found to put an immediate stop to an habitual discharge of blood from the uterus, in opposition to the powerful efforts of nature; is there not the greatest reason to believe, that the same application would prove singularly efficacious, either in restraining, or totally taking away that *hæmorrhage* from the womb which is preternatural; and where nature, ever attentive to her own designs, is also endeavouring to assist herself?

Heat

Heat not only relaxes the solids and dissolves the fluids, as may be seen by its effect on those animal substances, called jellies or glue ; but also rarefies the air contained in the body, by which, the whole mass will be expanded ; and by taking up more space in the vessels, their diameters will be enlarged, which will lay an additional stress upon the whole solid system ; so that the effects of rarefaction and plethora, pro tempore, are the same. *Cold*, on the contrary, condenses the air and confirms the texture of the blood ; for even the hardest metals, as appears by the *pyrometer*, are contracted, or expanded, according to the degrees of heat or cold applied.

From these several circumstances, I would infer, that the application of *intense cold* to the body, is more to be depended upon, and will produce more salutary effects in *uterine hæmorrhages*, than any thing else which can be devised ; although I foresee

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see an objection, which I would wish to obviate before I go further. As cold affects the body by contracting the solids, and repelling the blood to the interior parts ; it may be said, that its action will be equally pernicious with that of *styptics* : Admitting this reasoning as unanswerable ; since I have always found it otherwise in practice, I can pay no manner of regard to it : But the fact seems to be this ; when the body is heated, the circulating power is increased, and the blood is not only rarefied and rendered more fluid, but its vessels being dilated, if they at last give way, will then discharge their contents more freely ; but when it is suddenly chilled, although the application of *cold* may contract and lessen the capacity of its vessels ; it condenses the blood at the same time, so that in effect, they will not become fuller than before ; besides, as I have always observed, that the flux of blood abated in proportion to the degree
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of cold ; experience, which ought to supersede all theory, shews that the effect of cold in condensing the fluids, is far more than equal to its power in contracting the solids ; or at least, that the danger already hinted at is not to be feared.

Those floodings which are attended with frequent and long-continued *fainting fits*, very often prove mortal ; yet I have observed in some of those where the pulse was weak and intermitting, and who were apparently sinking very fast ; that by freely admitting fresh, cold air, they recovered as if inspired with new life. This does not seem difficult to account for, as the heart has not power to propel its blood through the pulmonary arteries, till the lungs are sufficiently blown up with cold air ; which, on account of its greater gravity, is much fitter for the purposes of respiration, than the warm, confined atmosphere of a bed-chamber.

In *August*, 1773, I received a letter from a gentleman at Kirby Lonsdale, in Westmoreland, of which the following is an abstract. 'I had lately an opportunity of seeing the good effects of *cold* in a flooding after delivery; the particulars of which are as follows. About a month ago, I was called to a woman in labour with her fifth child, at a village a few miles distance from this town: The labour was natural, and in a short time the placenta came away with ease. About half an hour after, I took a walk in the fields, but was called in great haste, and at my return found her fainting and flooding very profusely. On enquiry, I was told the women had given her a large quantity of spirits, to which I imputed the discharge. I threw open the door and windows of the room, for the free admission of air, and gave her cold water plentifully to drink; by means of which the flooding almost immediately abated without any return.'

A gentle-

A gentleman who practises midwifery in London communicated to me the following case :

November the 11th 1773, a patient of mine was seized with a profuse flooding and fainting, about half an hour after delivery : To the best of my knowledge she lost about *three pints of blood*. I immediately let in cold, fresh air upon her, by opening the doors and windows ; and gave her two glasses of cold water to drink ; having no vinegar at hand, I applied thick cloths dipped in cold water, round her loins, over the lower part of the abdomen, and to the vagina: The good effect was evident; for the flooding very soon ceased ; in about twenty minutes the patient became sensible, and in a voice scarcely to be understood, desired she might be covered with cloaths, for she was dying ; as she seemed very cold, and was in a kind of shivering fit, I complied with her request, but soon found my error in so doing ; for when she became warm,

the flooding returned, which obliged me to have recourse to my former method, and to apply cloths wetted with vinegar, which by this time was procured ; in consequence of which, the discharge of blood again abated in a very short time, and my patient happily recovered without any relapse.

Every one who breathes with difficulty, can tell from his own experience, what vast relief he finds in going from a hot room, where the air is too much rarefied, into one much cooler, where it is more elastic and pure. The frequency of a natural pulse to the act of respiration, is in general, as *ten* to *three* ; and the last is found to have a very sensible effect on the first, both as to its strength and quickness: Besides, as a considerable part of the whole mass of blood is continually passing through the lungs ; successive draughts of that *cold fluid*, constantly applied to their interior surface, will contribute greatly to cool and condense it ; as nothing but the thin membranous

branous expansion of the air-vessels is interposed ; and as the air in the blood will, by alternate changes, always remain in *equilibrio* with that of the common atmosphere.

From such a rarefaction of air ; the vessels of animals placed in the exhausted receiver of an air-pump, will swell and even burst ; and upon the same principle, periodical pains, and fluxes of blood do sometimes happen at full and new moon, when the atmospherical pressure on the surface of the body is greatly diminished. Those of delicate habits, like so many *living barometers*, feel the influence of the same cause, and become weather-wise, on the approach of high winds or sudden falls of rain.

According to *Arbuthnot*, the internal surface of the lungs is greater in its extent, than all that part of the skin which is exposed to the air ; and therefore, the large quantity of this fluid received by inspiration, added to that externally applied to

the body, will have a very great effect in condensing the mass of blood, and reducing it into a smaller space, so as to lessen the distension of its vessels; and consequently, will not only tend to secure the patient from the danger of a syncope, but will also abate the flooding.

Next to the free and unlimited use of *cold air*, together with the application of compresses dipped in cold vinegar, to the belly and loins; I have often, according to the practice of *Hoffman*, directed large and repeated draughts of *spring water*, with remarkable good success; for, out of near *nine hundred women* delivered in the *Westminster Lying-In Hospital*, several of whom were seized with floodings, both before and after delivery; not one of them failed under this treatment; as far as it was prudent to trust to it, or any other means, independent of delivery itself.

When the patient is very weak and much exhausted, beef-water or weak broth
taken

taken cold, will be more proper than water; and where the last is directed, it will be necessary to tincture it with the *syrup of red poppies*, or something of the like kind, to give it a medicinal appearance, which will render it more acceptable: But, if notwithstanding, the flooding becomes so profuse as suddenly to endanger life; her *feet and legs should be plunged into cold water*, and may remain there as long as they are sensibly affected by the cold; after which, they may be taken out for a few minutes, and then immersed in water again. Clysters of beef-water may also be injected cold, and repeated as occasion requires.

So long as the strength continues, and the pulse remains good, it will not be necessary to proceed to the delivery with violence, but to wait, at least for a time, that the os uteri may relax and dilate by the effect of the pains; always remembering, that the indication of danger is rather to be taken from the nature of the symptoms

symptoms than the quantity of blood; as it is incredible how much some have lost and yet survived; whilst others will sink under a very inconsiderable discharge. *Mauriceau* remarks, that where the orifice of the womb was soft, thin, and equal, the patient generally recovered; but if the contrary, she often died: *Peu*, in his practice of midwifery, seems to be of the same opinion, and is so sensible of the great danger of applying violent force to dilate the os uteri, that he pronounces it death to the patient, from his own experience*.

Delicate women, who have lax fibres, of all others, sustain the loss of blood with most danger, being extremely apt to faint, and are subject to a violent head-ach; so that uncommon attention should be paid to their safety: In such habits, especially after delivery, and in cases of extreme weakness, *hartshorn jellies*, with rhenish wine,

* *Peu*, *Pratique des Accouch.* chap. xv. p. 516.

wine, and those things which give nourishment to the body, and consistence to the blood, may be advantageously directed: An infusion of the *cortex* with cinnamon, in French claret, and the addition of a little fine sugar, will also make a very grateful and generous cordial, without heating the body.

In long-continued fainting fits, where there was danger of a total stagnation of the blood, I have sometimes directed the following volatile liniment with advantage, to be rubbed upon the pit of the stomach, in the quantity of a tea-spoonful; over which, a hot flannel should afterwards be immediately applied.

R.

Ol. amygd. ℥iss

Spt. volat. aromat. ℥iij misce & fiat linimentum.

The symptoms of immediate danger are principally these; viz. the eyes grow dim, and the extremities cold; the pulse
becomes

becomes weak and intermitting, and the patient frequently faints; cold sweats, with subfultus tendinum, or convulsions succeed; and the hiccough is generally the last fatal symptom, which shews that death is near.

But notwithstanding some of those alarming signs, for they seldom all appear; as delivery is the only remedy which can give the patient a chance for life; no one who is truly sensible of the duties of his profession, will timorously desert her in the time of her utmost need; but deliberately follow the rules of practice, and speedily endeavour to perform that by *Art* which *Nature* is unable to accomplish; without any regard to the prejudices of the ignorant vulgar, or that undeserved censure which so frequently follows, where the event is fatal.

Whenever a speedy delivery becomes absolutely necessary, it should be attempted without delay; even during the

fainting

fainting fits; for although such a proceeding may seem to carry with it the appearance of cruelty; the general relaxation of the body which then prevails, will render the uterus more torpid and inactive, and less liable to be stimulated into motion by the hand of the operator; consequently, as there will be more space for turning the child; both it and the mother will suffer proportionably less: Indeed, her loss of strength will concur in making his assistance the more effectual; the uterus being then, as it were, unbraced and void of contraction: This shews the folly and imprudence of those, who are ever teasing and persecuting the poor, languishing, and half-dead patient, with their impertinent admonitions; “to bear down strongly, and make the best of her labour-pains.”

In short, in all those floodings which happen where the *fetus still remains in utero*; when every other method has failed, and the danger is great; the patient, if possible,

possible, should be *speedily delivered*; and whenever a profuse hæmorrhage happens *after delivery*, and obstinately continues notwithstanding the use of the remedies already mentioned; it will then become necessary to throw up *styptic injections* into the uterus, as the last and most powerful application that can be tried for her relief *.

As the present method of treating *uterine hæmorrhages* often proves ineffectual; I have the rather been particular on that subject, and more desirous to propose another, by which I am convinced the lives of many may be preserved; but as no new doctrine of importance can be too sufficiently confirmed by experience; I should think myself much favoured by such gentlemen of the profession, as would obligingly take the trouble to communicate to me their *practical observations*, in such cases, concerning the effect of *cold*.

I did

* Vide *Pugh's Treatise on Midwifery*, chap. v. p. 33.

I did propose to make some experiments, in order to ascertain the different quantities of blood escaping from the vessels of wounded animals, exposed to different degrees of *heat* and *cold*; but a want of opportunity, as well as the cruelty attending such enquiries, have hitherto prevented me.

Besides the hæmorrhages incident to pregnant women, there are two other sorts which occur more rarely, and are not attended with so much immediate danger; the first may happen to *virgins*, the last to women about the disappearance of the menses.

According to *Lamotte*, those floodings to which young women are subject, arise chiefly from *plethora*, and if the uterus is in a sound state, are generally remedied by bleeding, laxatives, and abstemious diet. In these cases, we should be cautious not to injure the reputation of the patient, from the suggestion that she is with

Qq 2

child,

child, and that such a flux of blood denotes a miscarriage ; which sometimes has inadvertently been done.

The menstrual flux, which now and then continues in plethoric habits, for the first three or four months of pregnancy ; and also that discharge of blood which naturally happens after delivery, from the separation of the placenta, should be carefully distinguished from a real flooding, by those who are unexperienced ; or who, from a want of attention rather than judgment, might chance to fall into mistakes of this kind.

Women about the age of forty-five or fifty, are sometimes troubled with a discharge of grumous, foetid blood ; especially those of plethoric habits, who are sedentary, and indulge themselves to excess in eating and drinking.

Dr. *Amb. Dawson*, an eminent physician of extensive practice in London, assures me
that

that he has often given *cremor tart.* in such hæmorrhages with remarkable success.

When the female constitution continues to generate redundant blood beyond the stated time of nature ; and where the uterine vessels, from the effect of age, become rigid and compact too early, so as to prevent its passing off that way ; great inconveniencies to health are the consequences of it ; though in general, they may either be relieved or cured by bleeding and evacuations : However when such complaints are of long continuance, attended with a slow fever ; a sanious discharge, and painful forcing down of the affected part ; they almost certainly denote a diseased uterus, and frequently prove mortal in the conclusion.

As for the *extract. cicute* ; its effects in such cases have by no means equalled my expectation, considering the extravagant encomiums with which it was ushered into practice. The *vegeto-mineral water* recommended

mended by *Goulard* may be tried as an injection ; and opiates, after gentle evacuations, where the pain is violent, may be directed to advantage : I have observed very sensible and lasting effects from the use of *peruvian bark* in the following form, though a perfect cure is not always to be expected :

R.

Cort. Peruv. subtiliss. Pulv. ℥i

Cremor. Tart. ℥iii

Pulp. Tamarind. ℥ss

Syr. caryoph. rub. q. s. ut fiat elect. cujus sumat quant. nucis moschat nocteq. Mane.

A vegetable diet, with nourishment of easy digestion, and also moderate exercise in a pure air, together with the chalybeate waters of *Tunbridge* or *Spa*, will likewise promote the cure ; or at least will tend to abate the severity of the symptoms, and prolong the patient's life.

SECTION

S E C T I O N VI.

Of Convulsions, and the Acute Diseases most fatal to Women during the state of Pregnancy.

THE cause of convulsions, is often seated in the *brain* itself, or in such parts as have an immediate intercourse with it, by the mediation of the nerves; particularly the *stomach* or *uterus*. They may also arise from violent affections of the mind, and likewise from *plethora* or *inanition*. There are other more remote causes of the disease, viz. the suppression of some long-accustomed discharge, as eruptions repelled from the surface of the body; the stoppage of the bleeding piles; or the application of any painful stimulus to the nervous parts of the body.

Convulsions are either *idiopathic* or *symptomatic*; the first are owing to some morbid impression originally made on the
brain

brain or *genus nervosum*, and when derived from the parent, are therefore termed *hereditary*: The last arise from accidental causes which act suddenly on the nerves, and with more violence than their natural structure can bear. Those which are hereditary or habitual, and which continue after puberty, are generally incurable, though seldom mortal; and when they totally disappear about that period; it seems owing to a gradual change produced in the body, by the effect of age; which lessens its *irritability*, and gives more strength and firmness to the whole solid system.

A remarkable alteration is likewise brought about in the female habit, towards the first eruption of the menses; for at that time, convulsions have frequently been known to cease, which before had resisted the most efficacious remedies.

Hysterical women, from the delicacy of their habit, and the great irritability of their nerves, are, of all others, the most
subject

subject to this malady ; especially, during the latter end of their *first pregnancy* : This probably arises from the uncommon pressure of the gravid uterus on the abdominal viscera, which may obstruct the vessels, and prevent the free circulation of blood ; or else from the vast distension of the uterine fibres, which creates a painful sensation, and by nervous sympathy, throws the whole vascular system into a convulsive spasm. But, that this violent and unaccustomed stress laid on the uterus, by the increased bulk of the child, is not alone sufficient to produce the disease is evident ; seeing, that gravid women in general are not subject to it ; and therefore, the *original cause* must have pre-existed in the constitution either from some former injury done to the *brain*, or a morbid impression derived from the parent ; which remains dormant and inactive, until roused into motion by such a change as that arising from pregnancy.

As the causes of convulsions are various, so likewise is the intention of cure. The vessels of the body can neither be filled or emptied beyond a certain degree, without occasioning a *plethora* in the one case, and *inanition* in the other; both of which extremes are destructive to health, and may occasion convulsions. In the first, they arise from a painful distension of the nervous parts; and in the last, from a defect of the circulating power, and that equal distribution of the blood, which is necessary to carry on the several secretions.

Convulsions from *inanition*, are much more dangerous than those from *plethora*; as it is easier to empty, than replenish the vessels; for, although nourishment may be taken into the stomach; it is a considerable time before it can be converted into blood, especially where the assimilating powers of the body have been much impaired.

When

When this disease comes on after profuse floodings, or other immoderate evacuations, it is *generally mortal*; and it is observed, that slaughtered animals, having lost a certain quantity of blood, fall into convulsions a short time before death: *Van Swieten* supposes, that this is owing to the uniform pressure of the blood-vessels being suddenly taken off from the *brain*; but more probably, it happens because that *equilibrium* is destroyed, which ought to subsist between the solids and fluids; and therefore, as soon as the quantity and impulse of the blood on its containing vessels become deficient; the vascular system, for want of due resistance, begins to exert a kind of preternatural contractive power, and the whole bodily frame is agitated or convulsed.

But notwithstanding what has been said; the above illustrious author relates the following extraordinary case, where

the patient recovered *. *Novi gravidam, quæ placidissime dormiverat, dum in vicinia periculosum erat incendium: Sollicita mater, mane accurrens, gratulabatur filiæ, quod blaudus somnus omnem timorem arcuisset. Mox incipit tremere misera toto corpore, & angi, simulque totus lectus jam inundabatur sanguine, sequente animi deliquio, & convulsionibus; tamen a periculosa hac Uteri Hemorrhagia convaleuit, sed fœtum quadrimestrem abortiens perdidit.*

Medicines in such cases, are in a manner out of the question; for nothing will so effectually restore the strength, as the repeated use of nourishing fluids, in small quantities: Broth clysters may also be administered; and if the pulse should remain very weak and languid; a decoction of *peruvian bark* may be given, with warm nervous cordials, joined with an *opiate*, such as the *confect. paulin.* &c. Where
the

* *Van Swieten*, Comment. Vol. iv. p. 497.

the symptoms are urgent, and the circulation almost at a stand; *blisters* may be applied to the inside of the arms, and *sinapisms* to the soles of the feet; the extremities may also be rubbed with hot flannels, or immersed in *warm water*; the effect of which, has already been considered.

When convulsions arise from *plethora*, which chiefly happens to such as are young, who indulge their appetite, and have a strong digestion; the pulse is generally hard, full, and frequent; which will require the immediate and repeated loss of blood, together with the use of laxative medicines and plentiful dilution. The *saline draughts* with *nitre* may also be given, and the patient should be enjoined to observe a light and abstemious diet for some time after, for fear of a relapse.

When she is comatose during the intervals, and her head affected, the eyes be-
ing

ing prominent and blood-shot, attended with a delirium, or much fever; the use of *opiates* are improper: In short, they ought not to be given, except in cases of great urgency from pain or want of sleep; and even then, only after bleeding and evacuations.

It is of the utmost consequence to distinguish the true cause of convulsions, before any medicines are prescribed, or methods tried for the patient's relief; as an error of judgment might here prove of fatal consequence: For instance, copious bleeding which would relieve or cure convulsions arising from *plenitude*; would instantly destroy the patient, if they were brought on by *inanition*; and *emetics*, which would be proper when the stomach was loaded with bile or other noxious humours, would be highly pernicious, where they were occasioned by an ardent fever or *inflammation of the brain*.

Those

Those of strong, robust constitutions, are seldom subject to convulsions, except from very violent causes ; on the contrary, children, and those of delicate habits, are sometimes affected by the slightest impressions on the body or mind ; and it is remarkable, that what produces very extraordinary and alarming symptoms in one, will not at all endanger another ; each feeling the effect of different causes, according to their natural temperament, and as their *nerves* are strung to different sensations. But although women and children are more subject to this disease than men, in proportion as their habit is weak and irritable, it is observed that they escape the danger of the disease much better.

Convulsions supervening violent fevers, or an inflammation of the brain, are often mortal ; but those which are followed by a fever, critical eruptions on the body, or the discharge of putrid bile from the stomach or intestines, generally end more favourably.

favourably. If they are of the hysterical kind, unattended by a *coma*, *delirium* or *fever*, and attack the patient, by long intervals, so as to become habitual, they do not denote immediate danger ; but sometimes occasion the palsy, loss of memory, or idiotism ; by gradually impairing the vital functions.

When this disease is suddenly produced by *terror* ; *bleeding*, the liberal use of *opiates*, and the *warm bath*, by dissolving the spasm and soothing the nerves, will best answer the intention of cure.

I attended a lady in the year 1766, who was repeatedly attacked with convulsions during her pregnancy, which were first owing to a fright, and to which she had been subject many years ; being treated in the manner just mentioned, she went on the full time of her pregnancy ; after which, she was happily delivered, and recovered without any relapse.

Some

Some authors recommend bleeding in the foot, when the head is affected; but the doctrine of *derivation* and *revulsion*, as applied to bleeding, is not less inconsistent and irrational, than in what it relates to the *pediluvium* or warm bath for the feet. The opening of a vein in the foot, has been said to bring on the menses; when blood drawn from the arm, had no such effect; and this was supposed to happen in consequence of its accelerating the blood's motion through the vessels of the legs and *uterus*; which indeed, is a downright contradiction; for when a vein is opened in any part, the motion of the blood through it, *pro tempore*, will rather be retarded than increased; as it is evident that the *bleeding orifice* cannot possibly transmit so much blood, as the trunk of the vein before its compression by the ligature. Admitting this as a fact, it will follow, that if the menses have been suddenly brought on by bleeding in the foot,

the effect was produced in a manner directly contrary to what has generally been imagined, viz. from the compression of the veins and arteries by the *ligature* applied to the legs, and to the *immersion* of the feet in hot water; both which, as already remarked, increase the quantity and velocity of the blood passing through the *uterus* *.

Errors in diet, or food taken into the stomach which offends either in quantity or quality, have been known to occasion convulsions; but these are seldom dangerous, and generally cease, as soon as the offending matter is removed, by giving an *emetic* and laxatives; after which an opiate will be proper.

A *retention of urine*, by distending the bladder and creating violent pain, may likewise be productive of convulsions, especially in weakly, irritable habits; but here, as in the former case, they soon go off,

off, after the bladder has been emptied by the *catheter* ; otherwise, the warm bath should be directed, with emulsions and anodyne clysters.

When the neck of the urinary bladder is compressed by the child's head, it may be gently raised above the symphysis of the pubes : A case of this kind, is mentioned in *Lamotte's* observations, where, from such assistance only, a large quantity of urine was instantly discharged.

A patient at the *Westminster Lying-In Hospital*, about two years ago, in the time of labour, complained of excessive pain at the pubes, which she was not able to endure without crying aloud : She was seized with the *subfultus tendinum*, which occasioned the *matron* to send for me : I found the bladder distended with water, and raised above the brim of the pelvis, so that during her labour-pains it was violently compressed between the uterus and bones, even to the danger of

bursting; being at that time equal in bulk to a child's head, and hard as a solid body. I directed the water immediately to be drawn off by the *catheter*, after which she became easy, and was delivered soon after.

Another case of the like kind, happened at the *Hospital* lately; where the bladder, by its hardness and projection over the pubes in the time of labour, was at first, mistaken for the child's head: This patient was treated in the same manner as the former, and also recovered.

Where *cutaneous eruptions* are suddenly thrown back into the habit; the *warm bath*, and gentle *diaphoretics* with nitre, will bid fair to relieve the patient; but should her complaints arise from *worms*; anthelmintic medicines may be given; in which, *Plenck's* preparation of mercury, with gum arabic, is both efficacious and safe, if administered with due caution. The *Indian pink root*; the bark of the wild cabbage

cabbage or *bulge water tree* of Jamaica; and the *coubage*, the pods of which are lined with the *siliqua hirsuta* of *Linnaeus*, have all lately been recommended as powerful medicines for this purpose; but as yet, I cannot say much of them from my own experience.

In strong *convulsions* during pregnancy, a speedy delivery has been proposed, and resorted to as the principal remedy; but observation and experience shew, that this rule will admit of many exceptions, and ought to be regarded with great caution; especially by those who are young in practice, and therefore, influenced by fear, which naturally suggests the worst; in consequence of which, they are often prompted to proceed with more haste and violence than is consistent with the patient's safety.

It has already been remarked, that the simple pressure of the *gravid uterus* on the contiguous viscera may interrupt the natural

tural functions of those parts, and occasion convulsions; and to such cases, may be added, those where that part is defective in its organical structure; and being either too small, or preternaturally firm and compact, cannot yield sufficiently to the increased bulk of the child, without being violently distended and overstrained; or else by an unfavourable position of the foetus, it may be bruised and compressed between the angular parts of its body and the bones of the pelvis, so as to excite pain, and bring on convulsions; especially, as the habit is at this time uncommonly irritable. Under such circumstances, a speedy delivery, if the patient is at, or near her full time, may procure her instant relief; but on the contrary, whenever they arise from any cause *independent of the state of pregnancy*; experience, as well as reason, evidently shew, that delivery thus violently brought about, contrary to the common course

course of nature, would not only prove ineffectual, but also highly dangerous.

Hoffman supposes that the *duodenum* is often the seat of convulsions, because of the discharge of bile and pancreatic juice, into the cavity of that intestine ; which from various causes are wont to become putrid and highly acrimonious ; consequently, they will produce great pain and tumult in the body, if not soon evacuated by gentle cathartics.

The retention of these *acrimonious salts* and *rancid oils*, which naturally ought to pass off by the kidneys may likewise occasion this malady ; as it has sometimes been observed to succeed a flux of pale, limpid urine, especially in fevers : In such cases, small portions of *emetic tartar*, with the saline draughts, or other saponaceous fluids have been found to procure the most relief.

Besides the several causes of convulsive disorders already enumerated, there
may

may be others, so latent and difficult to be found out, as to remain imperceptible to the nicest observer ; which nevertheless act with great violence on the sensible and irritable parts of human bodies. In such doubtful cases, or where the patient is senseless and can give no information ; the indication of cure must be taken from the general methods of treating the disease ; and the precipitate administration of powerful medicines ought to be avoided ; for one that is afraid of mistaking his way, should rather abate than redouble his speed. If the patient is unable to swallow, which frequently happens, she should not be neglected on that account ; for, *opium*, *musk*, or other medicines, may be advantageously given in clysters.

Women who have been subject to the disease, in former pregnancy, should use every possible caution to avoid it ; by *bleeding*, the use of *opiates*, or such other medicines or methods, as seem best appropriated

appropriated to the nature of their constitution, before the approach of labour.

The violence, and long duration of convulsions, sometimes leave a *morbid impression* on the brain or nerves ; by which the intellectual faculties are much impaired. In such cases, blisters, preparations of bark, with aromatic bitters, or the warm foetid gums, have been found serviceable ; together with the chalybeate waters ; the cold bath, and moderate exercise in a dry, pure air.

Rx

Pulv. subtiliss. Cort. Peruv. ℥i.

—*radic. Valerian. Sylv. ℥iij*

Chalyb. rubig. preparat.

Spec. Aromat. aa ℥i

Syr. Caryoph. rub. q. s. ut fiat Elect. cujus sumat quant. Nucis moschat. bis terve in die, superbibend. Cyath. Aq. Pyrmont. vel Spadan.

All animal and vegetable substances, which are usually directed in spasmodic

T t complaints,

complaints, act by their powerful effluvia, and in a certain degree seem to produce a narcotic affect; among the first are musk, and castor; and of the last are gum asafœtid. camphor, valerian, &c.; but *opium*, where-ever it can be properly given, is the sovereign medicine, and superior to all the rest.

Here it is necessary to caution young practitioners, who are generally *enthusiasts* in physic, not to imagine that the names of medicines, or the class to which they belong, either sufficiently denote their true qualities, or point out their real use: They ought not therefore, to depend upon them too much, however dignified with the appellation of *antispasmodics*, *specifics*, &c.; many of them have not even power enough to do harm; which indeed is saying something in their favour; since those which are good, are often abused, and then become the worst of all.

The

The proper means of making remedies salutary consists in distinguishing properly how they are to be applied : Thus administered, there is much which they will do ; but much more which it is impossible they should do, from the very nature of things ; and which therefore, it would be unphilosophical as well as unreasonable to expect.

I was favoured with the following case, by Mr. M——n, the gentleman who attended and delivered the patient ; and have set it down, as near as possible, in his own words.

C A S E I.

Mrs. D——an, of *Swallow-Street*, aged about thirty, at her full time, and with her first child ; was seized on the 24th of *January*, 1764, with violent and universal convulsions, in the beginning of labour, whilst her pains were moderate, attended

with a total deprivation of her senses : Being of a plethoric habit, twelve or fourteen ounces of blood were immediately taken from the arm ; a blister was applied to the back, and the usual antispasmodic medicines administered, but without any sensible benefit ; the convulsions increased in frequency and violence ; recurring every five or six minutes without any intervals of respite : At the accession of every fit, the child's head was pressed down on the *os uteri*, as if a labour-pain had been coming on ; it then grew rigid, and the agitation of the whole body was so violent, that there was no possibility of obtaining any further information from the touch : In the mean time, the arm, from struggling, bled to the quantity of ten or twelve ounces more, but no faintings ensued. In this manner, when about eight hours had elapsed, and no symptoms of amendment appeared ; it was proposed to bring the child away by instruments, and, for
the

the satisfaction of her friends, and the preservation of the attendant's character, to request Dr. *Leake's* advice, and that he would be present during the operation; but as his residence was distant, and the first messenger had mistaken the street, upwards of an hour was lost, before he was apprised of it; and in the mean time, the *convulsions* increased to such a degree, that her death was every moment expected. In the intervals, which were now very short, no pulse was to be felt, nor could she be perceived to breathe: Her attendant therefore thinking that any further delay might be fatal, resolved not to wait any longer, but to proceed to the operation. During the recess of the convulsions, he could perceive that the os uteri was dilated to a considerable extent, and the head advanced below the brim of the pelvis: After repeated trials with the *short forceps*, finding he could not succeed, on account of the height and largeness of

of

of the head, and the insufficient dilatation of the os uteri; he introduced the *scissars*, perforated the scull, and after evacuating its contents, extracted the bones of the head; and then delivered her without much difficulty. Just as the operation was finished, Dr. *Leake* arrived, and seeing the state of the patient, confirmed the unfavourable prognostic which her attendant had before made: However, thinking it better to try the effect of doubtful remedies than none at all, he prescribed for her as follows:

R.

Pulv. e Myrrh. c. ʒj

Mosch.

Sal. Succin. aa ʒss

*Syr. e Cort. Aurant. q. s. ut fiat Bolus 4ta
quaq. hora sumend. cum Cyath. Julep. sequent.*

R.

Julep. e Camphor. ʒvij

Spt. Volat. fœtid. ʒij misce.

Sinapisms were also directed to be applied to the soles of her feet. On

On the third day from her delivery, she began gradually to return to her senses, as if awaking out of a dream ; but had not the least recollection of any thing that had happened, or of any pain she had felt since the time her *Accoucheur* first entered the room. In a fortnight she perfectly recovered, and since that time has had several children.

C A S E II.

August the 6th, 1765, I was sent for to see a gentlewoman at *Camberwell*, who was convulsed ; she was big with her first child, and at the full expiration of her reckoning : Her midwife was with her, and informed me that she had no labour-pains, the *os uteri* not being at all dilated. She was apparently of a strong habit of body, and had been remarkably healthy during the latter end of pregnancy : The fits, two in number, which had been violent, were
gone

gone off before I saw her : Her pulse was good, and she was perfectly sensible ; but could give no manner of reason for her complaint ; I ordered twelve ounces of blood to be drawn, and a cathartic clyster to be administered ; after which, she took a bolus, with *musk* and *opium*, and washed it down with the saline mixture. When I saw her next day in the afternoon, she seemed in a manner quite recovered ; but had only taken her medicines once. She was delivered two days after and did well.

C A S E III.

October the 28th, 1769, late at night, I was desired to visit Mrs. *A—d—n*, in *Camdenish-square*, who was suddenly attacked with convulsions, the third day after delivery, without any apparent cause : She was naturally of a very chearful, volatile disposition, but subject to a *nervous tremor* on the slightest occasion. The convulsive
spasms.

spasms were gone off before I got there ; but her voice was tremulous and indistinct, her eyes wild and staring, and her intellect very imperfect ; she swallowed with great difficulty, and her face was much altered from its former appearance : Her pulse was quick, weak, and unequal ; sometimes vibrating with uncommon velocity, and then suddenly intermitting, and becoming almost imperceptible, for the space of one or two pulsations. Her friends did not know that she had been disturbed, nor could I find by the nurse, that any thing had been given to eat or drink which disagreed with her ; but as I had attended her before, and found that *opiates* generally relieved her, I prescribed the following medicines :

R. Pil. e Styrace gr. vj

Pulv. Castor. r. ℞ss

*Balsam. Peruv. q. s. ut fiat bolus minim.
pro re nata exhibend. cum cochlear. duobus
Julepi sequentis.*

U u

R. Julep.

338 NATURE and TREATMENT of

R.

Julep. e Camphor. ℥v

Aq. Puleg. simp. ℥iij

Spt. Volat. fœtid. ℥ij fiat *Julepum.*

Before seven in the evening, she had taken two of the boluses, and having had some refreshing sleep, waked sensible and seemed better; when I saw her at that time, her pulse was also more full and strong; and as there appeared no signs of a relapse, the application of a blister was omitted, to which she seemed much averse: I desired that three spoonfuls of the *julep* might now be given occasionally, without the bolus; except she was threatened with the convulsions.

The next morning she was still better, having passed a good night: In the evening she complained of a pain at her stomach, but was free from feverish symptoms, and perspired gently. The *emplast. Stomachic.* was directed to the pit of her stomach; her feet were wrapped in hot flannels,

flannels, and the use of the julep was omitted. She now continued recovering every day, but towards the end of the month, being subject to night sweats; she took a decoction of the *cortex*, with *elix. vitriol. dulc.* which restored her to perfect health.

C A S E IV.

Sarah Silby, of a strong athletic habit, was delivered in the *Westminster Lying-In Hospital* the 26th of August, 1771. The labour was natural, and the *placenta* came away with ease about an hour after delivery, as I was informed by the gentleman who at that time attended the Hospital; she appeared as well as could be expected till nine in the evening, when she complained of great sickness and oppression at her stomach, and vomited a large quantity of *porraceous bile*: As the sickness did not entirely go off, a

grain of *emetic tartar* was directed to cleanse her stomach more thoroughly ; but it did not produce any sensible effect. About midnight, she was attacked with violent *convulsions*, which lasted till eleven o'clock the next day ; during which time, she had ten or eleven fits ; and twice or thrice threw up phlegm mixed with clots of blood ; but as she was senseless and comatose in the intervals, it was not possible to administer any kind of medicine.

The 27th in the morning, her pulse was hard and oppressed, her skin hot and dry, and overspread with a deep yellow, as if she had been ill with the *jaundice*. The tongue was very foul, and had been wounded by her teeth in the convulsive paroxysms ; so that it appeared, the blood which she had discharged did not proceed from the stomach, but only from her mouth : The abdomen was tense and swelled, and she breathed with much difficulty, Ten ounces of blood were immediately

diately taken from the arm, and a *cathartic clyster* was afterwards administered. In the evening she was better; the clyster had procured her three stools, and lessened the hardness and swelling of her belly.

I then directed one of the following powders, to be taken every four hours, and an anodyne draught to be given the last thing at night :

R.

Tart. emet. gr. iss

Magnes. alb. ʒiss contere & f. pulv. in sex portiones dividendus.

R.

Aq. Puleg. ʒiss

Spt. Volat. fetid. ʒij

Tinct. Thebaic. gr. xxx

Syr. e Cort. Aurant. ʒj misce & fiat haustus.

The 28th in the morning, she was sensible and much relieved; her pulse was more soft and equal; the powders had brought on a free perspiration, and the
suffusion

diffusion of bile on her skin was less perceptible: The opiate had also procured her some refreshing sleep; but as I observed her head was disordered, and affected with a *stupor*, *leeches* were directed to be applied to her temples in the evening.

29th. Better in all respects, and perfectly sensible; but complained of the foretness of her tongue; which was washed with sage-tea and honey: In the evening, she was a little feverish, and had muscular pains in different parts of her body, but remained perfectly sensible. The antimonial powders were continued.

30th. The preceding night's rest, and a free perspiration, had remedied her yesterday's complaints: Nothing was now given but nourishing food of easy digestion, by which, her strength sensibly increased, and in a few days she perfectly recovered.

C A S E V.

That part of the following case, which relates to the different circumstances of labour, I took from the minutes of one of my *pupils*, who then attended in rotation and delivered the patient ; the rest is set down according to the best of my recollection.

Ann Philips, on *Thursday* morning, the 27th of *February*, 1772, about two o'clock, was brought into the *Hospital*, with symptoms of approaching labour ; the waters were discharged the preceding evening, but her pains were inconsiderable ; though at last they became stronger ; and returning by shorter intervals, brought the head below the brim of the pelvis, which was narrow : about three o'clock in the afternoon, her pains were still more frequent, but of shorter duration ; notwithstanding, the head made some small advances, and continued to do so until about eight o'clock ;

o'clock; when it was totally disengaged from the uterus, and the birth was expected at every pain. Her pulse was now strong, full, and frequent; as it had continued during the day; when, after changing the situation of her body, which was unfavourable, she seemed rather fatigued, and was suddenly seized with *convulsive spasms* in both legs, which quickly increased, and soon affected her whole body: Her pulse, during the fit, was small and very quick; she had seemingly great anxiety and oppression about the præcordia; and the urine was discharged insensibly: The spasm continued about ten minutes, when she was apparently quite recovered; her pulse also grew stronger, but her pains were manifestly interrupted, and much weaker. The convulsions returned by intervals of near an hour, and were of longer duration, 'till about twelve o'clock, when she was delivered. She was afterwards much better; but her fits again returned

returned in half an hour with greater violence than ever ; her intellects, during the intervals, being also very imperfect.

Eight ounces of blood were taken away, and the following bolus directed to be given immediately after, and repeated as occasion should require :

R.

Extract. Thebaic. gr. iſs

Mofch. ʒſs

Confect. Alkerm. q. ſ. ut fiat bolus.

She was ſtrongly convulſed in the night ſeveral times, and by ſeven o'clock in the morning, had thirteen fits, from the firſt attack ; about nine ſhe was better, but complained of much pain in her head, and ſoreneſs all over her body.

An emollient clyſter was adminiſtered, and her temples were bathed with warm vinegar, the fumes of which, ſhe alſo drew up her noſe : Her head being affected, the *opiate* was omitted, but about

nine at night, it was repeated, lest there should be a return of the convulsions. The next morning, she was much better in all respects ; had sound, refreshing sleep in the night, and perspired freely. From this time, the symptoms of weakness gradually went off, and in a few days she was perfectly recovered.

C A S E VI.

I was favoured with the particulars of the following case, by Mr. H——t, an *apothecary* in town, who practises midwifery, and at whose request I was sent for, at the time the patient was seized with convulsions.

Mrs. H——, the wife of a tradesman in *James-street, Covent-Garden* ; about thirty years of age, of a robust, plethoric habit and perfectly healthy ; being pregnant with her first child, was seized with *convulsions* at the expiration of her full time, and
during

during labour, viz. the 10th of *March*, 1772: Her pulse was full, and her pains seemed natural, but so moderate, that she was not at first examined by the touch: In less than an hour, she was taken with a reaching, without any apparent cause, and complained of pain at her stomach: A little warm caudle was given her, which was instantly thrown up; the pain at her stomach became violent, and the vomiting increased; about half an hour after, she was seized with *strong convulsions*, which ceased by intervals; she vomited with great violence, and several times threw up a large quantity of slimy fluid mixed with blood.

During this time, there were no signs of labour, the *os uteri* being rigid and quite closed: Every paroxysm was succeeded by a seeming profound sleep, attended with snoring, or rather snorting, together with a discharge of foam from her mouth, mixed with blood. She was in this

situation when I first saw her. Twelve ounces of blood were immediately taken away, a *blistering plaster* was applied to the nape of her neck, and *sinapisms* to the soles of her feet : I also prescribed a bolus, with *musk* and *opium*, which being dissolved, was swallowed with some difficulty. She continued speechless and insensible, as she had been from the first attack ; but the convulsions left her, and the labour-pains grew stronger ; the *os uteri* then dilated, and the child advanced at every pain, in-
 somuch that the birth was speedily expected : On a sudden, the pulse sunk, and her strength being perceived to lessen every moment ; the child, which was dead, was extracted by the *forceps*, and in about three hours after she expired.

I could not perceive that the tongue was wounded, as it frequently is in such cases ; and therefore, was afraid that the blood discharged from the mouth proceeded from a ruptured vessel in the stomach ;
 otherwise

otherwise an *emetic* would have been proper ; since the vast quantity of glairy *gastric fluid* thrown up, denoted something amiss in that part ; which, like the urinary bladder, when irritated by a stone ; or the intestines when any painful stimulus is applied, separate the same kind of mucus in great abundance.

C A S E VII.

August the 12th 1772, at seven o'clock in the morning, I was desired, as soon as possible, to visit a gentlewoman at *Lambeth*, who was seized with convulsions, and supposed to be in labour. Her first midwife seeing the state she was in, and fearing, I suppose, that she would die, pretended business elsewhere, and left her. The midwife, who was afterwards sent for, being present, informed me that her pains were very inconsiderable, and that the *os uteri* was but very little dilated. Her nails
were

were black, and her arms had repeatedly been drawn up with great violence towards her body, as if affected with the *cramp*. She complained of intolerable pain in her bowels, and was much oppressed with wind at her stomach, which was tense and swelled; her pulse was quick and irregular: and I was told besides, that she had long laboured under great anxiety of mind and dejection of spirits, as well as bodily pain. Her extremities were ordered to be gently rubbed with warm cloths, and afterwards to be wrapped up in hot flannels; I directed the following draught, and also an emollient clyster to be administered:

R.

Confect. cardiac. ʒss

Aq. Menth. pip. simp. ʒiss

Nucis Moschat. ʒiij

Tinct. Thebaic. gr. xx

Syr. e Mecon. ʒj fiat haustus anodynus
quamprimum exhibendus.

As

As she continued in great pain, and some symptoms of *convulsive spasms* appearing in the evening; seven ounces of blood were then taken away, and the anodyne draught was repeated: She discharged large quantities of wind from her stomach, and was so much relieved from her pain, that she fell into a profound sleep, and was much better in all respects the next morning; after which her labour-pains came on, and being happily delivered about one o'clock the same day, she soon perfectly recovered.

Dr. *Gaubius*, in his *adversaria*, mentions the internal use of the flowers of *zinc*, and informs us that he directed them with success in the cure of *convulsive and spasmodic diseases*; but such is the almost infinite variety of causes from whence convulsions may proceed, that what will relieve or totally remove them in one, will not be found in the least beneficial to another; and I think it still remains for further experience

perience to determine, whether their medicinal effects in such cases are to be depended upon or not. Six grains of the flowers of zinc may be mixed with a dram of fine sugar; and being divided into six parts, one of them may be given thrice a-day, or oftener as occasion requires.

Next to uterine Hæmorrhages and Convulsions; the *Pleurisy, Dysentery and Small-Pox*, deserve attention, as diseases of a very destructive nature to women during pregnancy: But as they have been fully and judiciously considered by authors of the greatest eminence; I shall only take a cursory view of them, in order to shew how much their dangerous tendency is then increased; as well as to point out some peculiarity of treatment, which they at this time require.

As a firm and compact state of the solids are observed to produce *acute diseases*; so lax fibres and a delicate habit dispose
the

the body to those of the *chronic kind*. Women, therefore, are found to be much less subject to the *pleurisy* than men; and those who have a bad digestion and phlegmatic constitution, are seldom affected with it at all; according to that aphorism of *Hippocrates*: *Qui acidum eructant, raro pleuritici fiunt.*

Although strong masculine women who use hard exercise, and where the menses have been deficient, are much oftener visited with it than others; I have seen two or three instances where those of a very contrary kind were also violently affected*. The production of the disease, and its symptoms, may therefore, probably sometimes arise from a defect of the *vis vitæ*, as well as from excess of it; for instance, where the quantity of animal fluids is much lessened, in valetudinary, exhausted women, so is their strength likewise; and consequently, four ounces of blood,

Y y

which

* Vide *Child-bed Fever*, page 223.

which shall accidentally become redundant, will render such women as *plethoric*, and over-load their vessels as much at one time, as double that quantity would have done at another, when they were stronger.

In the beginning of the disease, the pulse is commonly hard, full, and strong; but when the pain in the sides becomes acute, and respiration very difficult, it then loses its firmness, and grows more soft and weak; and as the blood cannot now pass freely through the lungs, they will begin to participate of the inflammation; and the *pleurisy* will then be complicated with the *peripneumony*.

Without this distinction, and a particular regard to the alteration of the pulse; *bleeding* would often be omitted, as improper, even when most conducive to the patient's safety, by preventing a *mortal suffocation*; for she is often cut off by the difficulty of breathing, and the consequent obstruction of the blood in the lungs,

before

before the inflammation has brought on any collection of *matter* in the thorax. The indication of cure, is therefore, rather to be taken from *respiration*, than the state of the pulse, which manifestly depends upon the former.

Servius who opened a great number of those who died of the *pleurisy* at *Rome*, always found one lobe of the lungs corrupted; but the *pleura* was either slightly affected, or altogether untouched by the inflammation.

In most acute fevers of the inflammatory kind; scarcely any thing is required, besides well-timed evacuations, with plentiful dilution; and therefore, bleeding, gentle laxatives, and the saline mixture with nitre, will here be proper; especially, when the skin is dry, and the pulse hard and full.

When the patient is much relieved in the beginning, by a profuse perspiration,

and the pulse becomes more soft and free ; or where she is benefited by expectoration in the progress of the disease ; bleeding does not seem necessary ; but it may be advantageously directed at all times, whenever a dangerous difficulty of breathing suddenly comes on : Under these circumstances, it is as safe and requisite in women with child, as others ; and even more so, in those who are young, and naturally of a plethoric habit of body, and who are not advanced beyond the *fourth month of pregnancy* ; for the *embryo* being then small, and not requiring the whole quantity of redundant blood ; nature often finds means to carry it off by the *vagina*, lest it should over-fill the vessels, and injure the constitution.

Where expectoration is suppressed, and a difficulty of breathing comes on ; *Baglivi*, recommends the application of blisters to the inside of the legs ; and also mentions the remarkable good effects of warm, diluting

luting fluids, taken often and in small quantities. For this purpose, nothing can be better calculated than the *decoct. pector.* with nitre; and if the steam of warm water is frequently drawn into the lungs with the breath, it will be found very beneficial.

If the pain is extremely acute during respiration; swathing or binding the thorax with a broad circular bandage, will often procure great relief; by preventing the elevation of the sternum, and the distension of the affected parts; for then, breathing is principally carried on by a greater depression of the diaphragm, at each inspiration; but this application would be highly improper in *gravid women*, where the whole abdominal cavity being taken up by the *enlarged uterus*, the motion of the lungs would, in a manner, be suppressed, and the patient suffocated. *Emetics*, for the same reason, should also be omitted, or given with great caution; especially

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especially in full habits, before bleeding, or where signs of a *delirium* appear.

To promote expectoration, either of the following medicines may be directed, according to the degree of inflammation, and the nature of the symptoms :

R.

Ol. Lini per express. ℥iij

Spt. Sal. ammoniac. gr. xx

Aq. Puleg. simp. ℥iss

Oxymel. Scillit. ℥j fiat haustus 5ta quaque hora sumendus.

R.

Sal. Absinth. ℥i

Succ. Limon. ℥ss

Sperm. Ceti solut. ℥ss

Aq. Hyssop. ℥x

Syr. balsamic ℥j fiat haustus.

The application of a *blistering plaster* to the affected part, seems most rational after bleeding, &c. but where-ever the pain is fixed, and so acute, as to occasion much difficulty of breathing in the beginning ;

it

it may then be directed with great safety and advantage, as I have observed several times. In short, the treatment of this disease in *pregnant women*, with some few exceptions, is nearly the same as in those who are not so; although the event is much more dangerous; according to *Hippocrates*, viz. *Mulierem in utero gerentem, ab acuto aliquo morbo corripit, lethale*.

Mrs. M-y-les of *Westminster*, aged thirty-two, and of a weakly constitution; in the fourth month of her pregnancy, was seized with an *acute, inflammatory fever*; supposed to have been communicated by her husband, who was then recovering from a dangerous illness of the like kind, which had confined him to his room three weeks. I was desired to visit her the 21st of *July*, 1772; her pulse was frequent and somewhat full, her tongue foul, and her thirst immoderate; she complained of the head-ach, which had continued violent from the beginning,
and

and prevented her having rest. Being ill near a week before I saw her, some medicines had been given, and a blister applied: As I was informed there were signs of an intermission towards the morning, I directed the following draught:

R.

Sal. Absinth. ℥i

Succ. Limon. ℥ss misce & affund.

Decoct. Peruv. Cort. ℥i

Aq. Cinn. simp. ℥iij fiat haustus 4ta quaq. hora exhibendus.

Her complaints continued without much alteration the two following days; but on the twenty-fourth, the pulse was hard, the hands tremulous, and her eyes appeared bright and inflamed; she was delirious by turns, and raved much in the night, which she passed without sleep. Eight ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and an emollient clyster was administered; she afterwards took one of the following powders,

ders, which was ordered to be repeated in three hours, if the first produced no sensible effect :

Rx .

Tart. emet. gr. ij

Magnes. alb. ʒss contere & fiat Pulv. in sex partes dividend.

The 25th, the febrile symptoms seemed to abate, and she was something better, having had refreshing sleep soon after bleeding, the preceding day : The powder first given proved gently emetic, and afterwards produced a moisture on the skin; her pulse being also softer ; the draught, which was first prescribed, was again repeated every four or five hours.

On the 27th, she was still more cool and free from fever, but extremely weak and languid; and as the urine deposited a copious sediment, I then prescribed the following draught, and desired that weak broth and light nourishment might be given as often as her stomach would bear.

℞

*Decoct. Peruvian. Cort. ʒiſs**Extract. ejusd. moll. ʒi**Aq. Cinn. ſpt. ʒiij**Syr. c Cort. Aurant. ʒi fiat hauſtus 4ta
hora exhibendus.*

She continued this medicine upwards of a week; and gradually gaining ſtrength every day, at laſt perfectly recovered without *abortion*; being, at this time, in the ninth month of her pregnancy.

A preternatural inteſtinal diſcharge is uſually called *diarrhœa*, but when mixed with blood, and attended with pain and fever, it is then termed a *Dysentery* or *bloody flux*: This diſeaſe may ariſe from obſtructed perſpiration; corrupted food, or ſtrong, draſtic purgatives; it may alſo be communicated by *infection*; or brought on by ſharp humours, which vellicate the interior ſurface of the inteſtines, and determi-
mine the blood in too large a quantity to their tender veſſels.

There

There have been some few instances where blood was observed to proceed from the intestines, without any pain or loss of strength ; and where the sudden suppression of this flux produced very dangerous symptoms, viz. a vertigo, epilepsy, or even madness. It may therefore be reasonably supposed, that such evacuations were truly *critical*, and supplied the want of some other discharge ; as that of the bleeding piles, or perhaps, the redundant blood, which is sometimes carried off by the vessels of the vagina, in the first months of pregnancy. Where the stools are sanious and foetid, attended with pain, fever, and tenesmus ; it would be equally improper to put an early stop to the discharge.

It is not difficult to distinguish between the hæmorrhoidal flux, and dysenteric blood ; as the first is generally evacuated with inconsiderable pain, which is local and confined to the rectum ; whereas, in the dysentery, the pain is often very

acute and universal: Besides, in the hæmorrhoids; the blood is voided first, but in the other disease, it is either mixed with feces, or comes away afterwards by the efforts of straining.

When pain in the bowels is violent and excruciating, but not soon followed by stools, it may always be looked upon as a very *dangerous sign*, which shews that the small intestines are affected; and if the patient is not soon relieved, or particularly, if a difficulty of swallowing and hiccough come on; it denotes a *mortification*, and shews that death is at hand.

If the disease is long protracted, the intestines lose their retentive and absorbent power; and the food taken into the stomach, instead of being digested and its finest parts converted into chyle, for the nourishment of the body, is hurried thro' the inflamed intestines; which, being stripped of their mucus and excoriated, are affected with pain and tormina, from the
acrimony

acrimony of their contents: Hence, as the blood is deprived of attemperating fluids, the secretion of *urine* and *perspiration* becomes defective; and the patient will be nearly in the same situation as one after long fasting; consequently, from the rancid acrimony prevailing in the body; this disease, towards its conclusion, like most others, will become of the putrid kind.

In this disordered state of the female habit, the *fetus in utero* being robbed of its nourishment will die; and the *placental vessels*, which derive their energy and absorbing power from it, will now separate from the womb, like blighted fruit in vegetables, and the patient will miscarry.

Although the cause of this disease is different; the treatment of it is so similar to that of the obstinate diarrhœa attending the *Child-bed Fever*, that I shall not trouble the reader with a repetition of what is laid

laid down on that subject; but only observe, that in those cases where, from the patient's excessive pain, one might have been tempted to direct *opiates*, they have seldom procured lasting ease; especially in the early state of this disorder; but on the contrary, often increase the oppression at the stomach and pain in the bowels, by lessening their expulsive motion and locking up those corrupted, offending humours which ought to be carried off. Therefore, *laxative medicines* which pass without much irritation, with rice-water for common drink, and the frequent use of emollient clysters, or those made with starch, &c. where the mucus of the intestines is abraded, will generally be found to afford relief.

Where the habit is plethoric, and much pain or fever attend; the cure should commence with the loss of blood, otherwise, it will not be absolutely necessary. Gentle emetics, such as the following, may then
be

be given two or three times; by intervals of three or four days, as the strength will permit:

R

Tart, emet. gr. v.

Magnes. alb. ʒss

Aq. Alex. simp. ʒvi

Oxymel. Scillit. ʒss fiat mistura cujus sumat Cochlearia duo, oblata occasione.

When the above medicine does not act as an emetic, it generally proves gently cathartic, or opens the cutaneous pores; which will be found greatly to assist in the cure; the sympathy between the skin and bowels being very remarkable; as may be observed in consumptive habits; for the habitual diarrhœa which then often attends is almost constantly better or worse, as the colliquative sweats are more or less profuse. During the intervals, either of the following medicines may be given twice a-day, or oftner, according to the nature of the symptoms, or violence of the discharge;

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charge ; and if the patient is much harassed with pain, and can get no rest ; thirty or forty drops of the *thebaic tincture* may be occasionally added to the clyster :

R.

Pulv. Rhei. gr. viij

Confect. cardiac. ʒi fiat Bolus.

R.

Pulv. Gall. Alep.

——*Nucis Moschat. aa ʒss*

Syr. e Mecon. q. s. ut fiat Bolus.

When this disease is not attended with pain or fever, it then often arises from weakness and relaxation of the bowels ; and therefore, opiates and mild astringents may be directed : The following bolus, or something of the like kind may be given twice a-day, with a tea-cupful of *aq. calcis*, to which, milk may be added in the quantity of a third part. A flannel shift may also be wore next the skin, and the feet ought to be kept extremely warm :

R. *Pulv.*

R.

Pulv. e Succin. c. gr. x

Confect. cardiac. Di fiat Bolus.

A lady in *Great Queen-Street*, near twenty-one years of age, and of a very delicate habit of body; in the seventh month of pregnancy, was affected with a diarrhœa, from anxiety of mind. Though she took opiates and other medicines, it continued, almost without intermission, 'till the middle of the eighth month; when the pain in her bowels became very violent, and blood with mucus was discharged with the stools: She was also oppressed with great sickness at her stomach, and often threw up large quantities of ropy yellow phlegm mixed with blood. She had very little appetite, or natural rest; complained much of the head-ach, and laboured under a slow fever and hectic heats, after taking the least nourishment: Her pulse was very languid and unequal; in short, she was reduced to the last degree of weakness.

The *opiates*, which I at first directed, scarcely procured her any sleep or lasting ease; neither was the frequency of her stools abated; being constantly disturbed seven or eight times in the night, and during the twenty-four hours, had sometimes sixteen or eighteen motions, though at last, nothing was voided but a red, glairy substance, like flakes of half-putrefied flesh. I then prescribed the following powders; one of which, she took in rice-water twice a-day, for two or three days successively; they were then omitted for a day or two, and afterwards again repeated: The first powder made her sick, but did not prove emetic, and although they always checked the looseness, it never totally went off till within a few days after delivery; at which time she was better in all respects, and free from pain:

R.

Tart. emet. gr. ij

Pulv. Contrayer. c. ʒi sēdula conterere & fiat pulvis in sex partes dividendus.

Opiates

Opiates and absorbents were given in the intervals, without much relief; starch clysters were also administered, and her common drink was rice-water, with the addition of gum arabic, which agreed with her better than any thing else.

The third day after delivery, the purging commenced with as much violence as ever, attended with excruciating pain in her bowels; the stools being very foetid, and mixed with blood as before. The next day, her pain was still excessive, and the purging continued: Her nails began to turn black; she was seized with a shivering fit, and immediately fell into *convulsions*, which lasted upwards of an hour; her body being agitated at different times with great violence. As the fit went off, and she seemed much better, I was not sent for till the eighth day, at which time the purging returned, and the acute pain in her bowels threw her into another fit, which for a time, deprived her of all

sense. *October* the 17th, 1772, I directed starch clysters, with twenty drops of tinct. thebaic. to be given twice a-day, but in small quantities and only milk-warm; her body and limbs were wrapped in warm flannels; and as I observed that nothing relieved her so much as the powders she had before taken; they were again repeated: She was better after the second powder; both the pain and diarrhoea being sensibly abated. To avoid the danger of a relapse, the powders were continued once or twice a-day for upwards of a week; and with care and proper nourishment, she gradually recovered. Towards the end of the month, she took the following draught night and morning, for ten days;

R.

Cort. peruv. Pulv. ℥ss

Fol. Rosar. rub. sicc.

Cort. Cinn. aa ʒi

Aq. bullient. ʒx post macerat. idon. cola.

R. *Hujus*

R.

Hujus colat. ℥iss

Tinct. Japonic. ℥iij

*Confect. Alkerm. ℥i fiat haustus nocteq.
mane exhibendus.*

This medicine assisted her greatly, by strengthening the bowels and increasing her appetite, and at last she was restored to her former state of health; but from catching cold, or other accidental causes is still apt to be slightly affected with her former complaint.

The late illustrious *Baron Van Swieten*, in the fifth and last volume of his *commentaries*, a work which will render his name venerable to the latest posterity, remarks the following circumstances, from his own experience, in what relates to the *small-pox*, viz. that the method of preparation usually observed, before the artificial communication of this disease, may be omitted without danger; for at the *Orphan-house*, situated

situated in the suburbs of *Vienna*; though there was not any variation in the diet of those *inoculated*, from that of the rest; no harm or inconvenience was perceived to follow: But it is to be observed, that they all breathed the open air for the whole day, and slept in spacious and lofty bed-chambers, which were well perfused. Hence arose the opinion which now prevails with some; that those who labour under the *natural small-pox* will recover as easily as others who are *inoculated*; without much regard either to diet or medicine, provided that they sufficiently enjoy the salutary influence of the *fresh air*.

The treatment of this disease, is now so well understood, and so rationally pursued, that little can be said on the subject which has not already been taken notice of by others.

According to the calculation of Dr. *Furin*, several years ago; about one in six died by the natural small-pox; but of those

those who were inoculated, scarcely one in forty-eight. If the calculation is just, it appears that this destructive malady is rendered much milder by the present method of treatment; since the number of those who die, compared to those who recover, is happily now very small; even in the natural sort, except they happen to *women with child*; or during an unhealthy season of the year, where they become complicated with other *diseases of the epidemic kind*: This favourable circumstance, seems principally owing to the application of the same treatment in the natural small-pox, which had been found so remarkably beneficial in those communicated by inoculation.

An abstemious, laxative diet, will be proper in the beginning; such as that of roasted apples, ripe oranges, or any other cooling vegetables of the solutive kind; also milk-pottage, or gruel sweetened with honey.

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In adults, and those of strong habits, bleeding is generally necessary ; being so far from retarding the eruption, that it appears more kindly after that evacuation. One of the following powders will then be proper, and may be given for two or three nights successively, as occasion requires :

R̄.

Calomel. ppt.

Sulph. præcipitat. aa gr. x

Tart. emetic gr. ij contere & fiat pulv. subtiliss. in sex partes dividend.

As soon as the eruption appears ; if the inflammatory symptoms run high, and it seems to rush out too hastily ; the following cathartic draught should immediately be given ; especially, if the previous use of the powders has not sufficiently emptied the bowels :

R̄.

Infus. Sen. limoniat. ℥ij

Mann. calab. ℥iij solv.

Spt. Lavend. c. ℥i fiat haustus.

During

During the symptoms of the *eruptive fever*, the patient may drink as much *cold spring water* as her thirst requires: At this time she ought, by no means, to be confined to her bed, or a warm room, but should walk gently about in the fresh, open air; taking care at her return, not to expose herself to it in a full stream, by sitting between open doors or windows; and however strange this practice might at first appear, it is now sufficiently justified and confirmed by the constant and daily success which attends it.

This method was first followed and recommended by *Sydenham*, who was often unmercifully censured for venturing to depart from the common practice; but being convinced by repeated experience of its salutary effect, and aiming at nothing so much as the public good; he submitted to undeserved reproaches, and thought himself amply repaid by the satisfaction

arising from a conscientious discharge of his duty, and the feelings of his own benevolent heart. But although the success attending the present practice, is chiefly and originally owing to the sagacious and incomparable *Sydenham*; surely, those who have since been the means of boldly opposing popular errors, and permanently establishing that method which contributes to the preservation of thousands, also deserve their proper share of praise.

By the liberal use of cold water, and the influence of *fresh air*, the sick find themselves revived in a most extraordinary manner; the frequency and fulness of the pulse is observed to abate; the thirst grows less, and the symptomatic fever being in a manner extinguished, a free perspiration usually succeeds, accompanied with a favourable eruption; after which, nothing more seems necessary, but only to forward the maturation of the pustules, by supplying
the

the patient plentifully with milk and water, tea, or any thing of the like kind. At this time, the body ought to be kept cool and temperate by emollient clysters and gentle laxatives, as the state of the bowels may require.

Where the variolous eruption is complicated with a thick *miliary rash*, it will be proper to lessen the degree of the cooling regimen, and to allow the patient white-wine whey, or weak broth, instead of cold fluids.

A *phrenzy* happening the third or fourth day after the eruption, is a very alarming symptom. *Bleeding* and emollient clysters may here be directed, and the patient should be kept cool; *leeches* may also be applied to the temples, and the following julep may be taken occasionally; also barley-water with the addition of nitre, and vegetable acids for common drink:

R.

*Aq. font. purifs. ℥viij**Spt. mitri dulc. ℥iij**Syr. Violar. ℥ss fiat Fulepum.*

Purples on the skin, denote great danger, especially if the pock is confluent; but where *bloody urine* is voided at the same time, it may be looked upon as a mortal sign. Those appearances, however, are not always the genuine symptoms of the disease, but often arise from a heating regimen, and too great a degree of the circulating power. As the first may be owing to a putrid dissolution of the blood, they are much more dangerous than the other; and therefore, a distinction should be made respecting their treatment. In those of the *putrid kind*, antiseptic medicines may be given; as a decoction of the *bark* with *elixir of vitriol*, or the tincture of roses; but in the *inflammatory sort*; bleeding and laxatives with nitrous drinks, may be directed.

Towards

Towards the height, about the eighth or ninth day; the secondary, putrid fever, which might otherwise then commence, is to be prevented by *purgatives*, if possible; therefore the same cathartic draught which was given in the beginning, may now be repeated every other day, or as the strength will permit. *Opiates* are now proper, especially after the operation of the purge, or when the patient is restless and in pain; but should a delirium or difficulty of breathing come on, they should be wholly omitted.

Where the circulation flags, and the pustules, instead of maturing and growing fuller, seem to flatten and look pale; *snake-root*, *saffron*, and such like warm medicines, have been recommended; but as far as I have been able to observe, nothing has equalled the good effect of *emetic tartar*, given at first in such a quantity as to prove gently emetic, and afterwards, to act as an alterative only.

Some

Some direct the limbs to be blistered at this time, and others do not scruple to give *cold water*; and indeed, considering its salutary effects in the beginning, such a step does not appear altogether exceptionable; particularly if it is earnestly desired by the patient.

Where the *salivation* which usually attends the confluent small-pox, suddenly stops, the patient generally dies about the eleventh or twelfth day; especially, if her face and hands do not then begin to swell, or where some other evacuation does not immediately follow. To encourage the spitting, the head may be held over the steam of warm water, and the following *gargarism* may frequently be used;

R

Aq. hordeat. ℥j

Sal. Ammon. crud. ʒij

Mell. ʒss fiat *Gargarisma*.

Those

Those who are seized with the *small-pox* in the pregnant state, have generally much more easy and expeditious labours than other women : However extraordinary this circumstance may appear, I have seen it verified in many instances ; and indeed, never yet found it otherwise in any case, where the labour was strictly natural. It cannot be owing to the general weakness and relaxation of the body ; in consequence of which, the child might be supposed to meet with less resistance in the birth ; for if so, the *uterus* would participate of the effect, and its expulsive force being diminished, the labour, instead of being soon over, would probably be rendered more tedious and lingering.

In the *miscellan. natur. curios.* may be found several instances of women dying gravid, who were afterwards delivered of living children ; *Horstius* also relates a history of this kind ; and *Raymond*, in his book *de ortu infantum contra naturam*, is full of such wonderful

ful stories ; which are fitter to entertain old women and nurfes, than rational men ; yet the celebrated *Hoffman*, who does not feem behind hand with any of them in credulity, attempts ferioufly to account for fuch extraordinary births, by the expansion of putrid air, in the body of the foetus.

Several years ago, I was fent for to a tradesman's wife in *Mount-ftreet, Berkley-square*, who was taken with labour juft at the height of the *small-pox* ; but being then at fome diftance, fhe was delivered without any affiftance, before I got there, and died the next day.

July the 12th 1767, *Ann Moody* was admitted into the *Westminfter Lying-In Hofpital*, with fymptoms of labour, and being otherwife very ill, was allowed to remain longer than ufual before delivery. The *small-pox* appeared foon after admiiffion, but as the eruption was at firft taken for a rash, I was not acquainted with it until feveral days after : She was delivered of a
dead

dead child, about eight months old ; the ninth day after the eruption, without much pain or the usual efforts of labour : The pustules were of her confluent kind, and very thick on her skin ; together with *purples* ; for which a *decoction of the bark* with *elixir of vitriol* was given, but without effect ; for she died delirious the day after delivery.

January the 14th, 1768, *Esther Grace* was admitted into the *Hospital*, and delivered the third day after, of a living child, and at her full time : Though her pains were very inconsiderable, the birth was so quick and easy as to require no kind of assistance : The next day, the *small-pox* appeared. She was carefully removed in a chair the fifth day, and died three days after ; being the eighth from the time of the eruption. The child was nursed and taken care of in the *Hospital*, but died at eight days old ; though without any eruption on its body, or other symptoms of the *small-pox*.

February the 8th, 1770, I attended Mrs. Ch——n, at Lambeth, who had the *small-pox* in the fifth month of her pregnancy : She was young, and of a strong, healthy constitution ; but very full of the eruption, which was rather of the confluent than distinct kind. As I was called to her in the beginning of the disease, it was treated by the cooling regimen already mentioned ; the weather being at the same time intensely cold. The *spitting* which had assisted her greatly, began to diminish very much, a little after the height ; and about the twelfth or thirteenth day, she was exceeding ill ; the symptoms of the secondary fever, were then violent, and she was unable to speak or swallow, except with great difficulty. Nothing at this time relieved her so much as a *purging draught*, which she took every other day : As her strength and spirits were always better, and the bad symptoms evidently less violent on the days she took the purge,

I directed

I directed it to be made weaker, and repeated it for three days successively. She now recovered daily, and at the end of three weeks, was able to take the air : but what appeared rather extraordinary ; although she had escaped *abortion* during the disease ; she miscarried about a month after her first going abroad.

About the same time, viz. *February* the 25th 1770, I was desired to visit Mrs. P——r, in *Britannia-Row*, near the *Hospital*, who then laboured under the small-pox, in the eighth month of her pregnancy. Her midwife informed me that she was delivered soon after the eruption appeared, with so much precipitation, that the infant fell on the floor, as she was assisted in getting off the close-stool. I saw her the ninth day from the eruption, which was large in quantity and of the worst confluent kind: *Broad purple spots* almost every where overspread that part of her skin where the pustules were want-

ing ; there were besides, several small vesicles on her breast filled with a yellowish fluid, like the serum of blood, and some with *bloody ichor* ; but as her water came away involuntarily, I could not tell whether the urine was bloody or not. She was also delirious ; Indeed, I never saw the disease attended with more malignant symptoms ; and though there were no hopes of her recovery ; I directed the following draught, and desired that the fluids which she was able to swallow might be acidulated with lemon-juice :

R.

Decoct. Cort. Peruv. ℥iss

Extract. ejusd. ʒi

Elix. Vitriol. acid. gtt. xxx

Tinct. Cort. Peruv. ℥iij

Confect. Alkerm. ʒi fiat haustus alternis horis exhibendus.

She died the next day about twelve o'clock, being the tenth from the first appearance of the eruption.

Cæther

October the 21st, 1772, *Elizabeth Lee* was delivered in the *Westminster Lying-In Hospital* of a living child, in the eighth month of pregnancy: As the *small-pox* appeared on her skin the next day, she was carefully removed to her own apartment by her friends, where she recovered; the disease being mild, and the eruption of the distinct kind. The child was seized with it a fortnight after; but I had no opportunity to inform myself whether it lived or not.

I have never yet seen any instance where infants were born with the *eruption*; neither does it usually appear immediately afterwards, though many of them die in a week or ten days. In such cases most of the children being born premature, they often die before the infection has had sufficient time to produce the disease; and their bulk being proportioned to their age, may be one reason, why the delivery in such cases, is more easy and expeditious.

Not-

Notwithstanding what has already been said ; examples may be found in the *philosophical transactions* ; *Bartholin's medical epistles*, &c. where the body of the newborn infant has been found overspread with variolous pustules ; which, considering the intercourse between the mother and it, during gestation, is not to be wondered at.

A very curious and uncommon case is related by *Van Swieten*, as it happened under the observation of *Dr. Watson* in *London*, viz. a woman who had been for some time pregnant, and who long before had the *small-pox*, was very assiduous in attending her servant maid, who then laboured under that disease : In due time, she was happily delivered, and brought forth a healthy female child, where evident marks of its having had the eruption, appeared on the skin. When this child's brother was inoculated four years after, *Dr. Watson* had leave from the parents to
inoculate

inoculate her likewise ; but the operation was attended with very different effects in those different subjects ; for the pustules appeared in the boy, who soon happily recovered from the disease ; but the girl, after drooping for two days, became very well again, and remained totally free from the eruption.

A case something similar to this is also mentioned by Dr. *Mead* in treating of the small-pox. He supposes that where the child is born before the perfect maturation of the pustules in the mother, it will then more probably escape the disease ; and also that the danger arising to women at this time, who suffer abortion, will be in proportion to the loss of blood, after the separation of the *placenta* from the uterus : But there is not sufficient reason to adopt this last opinion ; for even what he himself afterwards asserts, does not correspond with it, viz. that the small-pox have

have generally been found most mild, when they succeed some considerable evacuation, whether natural or artificial.

Van Swieten informs us, that the celebrated *Boerhaave* attended a lady in the sixth month of pregnancy, who laboured under the worst kind of the *confluent small-pox*; notwithstanding which, she proceeded to the full period of her time, and was then delivered of a healthy, male child, which had not the least vestige or appearance of the disease.

From the above extraordinary circumstance, which was probably owing to the peculiar structure of the *placenta*, and its power to absorb from the womb such juices only as were salutary and nutritious; even when the whole mass of the mother's blood was tainted with *variolous infection*; one would incline to think, that *hereditary diseases* are providentially from thence less frequent than they otherwise would have been; and that the perfection of animal fluids depends

more upon the secreting organ, than the general mass from which they are strained off. This property with which the placenta seems endowed, is beautifully illustrated by what may be observed in *vegetables*; where two plants of different qualities both draw their nourishment from the same pot of earth; the one a *deadly poison*; the other, friendly to the human body, or perhaps an *antidote* to the former; and this is still further exemplified in grafting small branches of one tree into the stem of another; for the juices of the last, will from thence be so far divested of their natural qualities, by passing thro' different strainers, as only to produce the same kind of fruit, with that of the tree from which such branches were taken.

T H E E N D.

P O S T S C R I P T.

The following Gentlemen, besides many others, who either went abroad, or settled in different parts of the country, which I cannot recollect, attended my *Lectures*, at the times already mentioned ; most of whom took *notes*, and therefore, to such I refer for a confirmation of the facts mentioned in the *Introduction* to the preceding observations.

MR. C. M. Thode, Surgeon to the
Empress of *Russia*, *Petersburgh*.

Mr. Crowther, *Leadenhall-Street*, *London*.

Mr. John Blake, *Bristol*.

Mr. William Slater, House Apothecary to
the Dispensary, for the relief of the
Poor, *Aldersgate-street*, *London*.

Mr. Richard Newland, *Chichester*, *Suffex*.

Mr. Edward Yale, *Catharine-street*, *London*.

POSTSCRIPT.

Mr. Robert Hobson, *Bernard-Castle, County of Durham.*

Mr. Charles Lightfoot, *Whitby, Yorkshire.*

Mr. William Cartwright, *Wenleek, Salop.*

Mr. Joseph Dawson, *East-Indies.*

Mr. Thomas Tubb, *Lambourn, Berkshire.*

Mr. Thomas Parkinson, *Kirkham, Lancashire.*

Mr. William Harffy, *Castle-street, Leicestersfields.*

Mr. William Sexton, *Thame, Oxfordshire.*

Mr. John Caufer, House Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, 1771.

Mr. Robert Pope, *Staines, Middlesex.*

Mr. Lewis Poignand, *Duke-street, Westminster.*

Mr. Thomas Hammond, *Little Newport-street, Newport-market.*

Mr. Jeremiah Wilkinson, *Scarborough.*

Mr. John Marsh, *Halfmoon-street, Piccadilly.*

Mr. J. Rackham, *Bungay, Suffolk.*

Mr. Thomas Inman, *St. Osyth, Essex.*

Mr. Edward Weeks, *Westfield, Sussex.*

Mr. H. Dickinson, *Cecil-street, Strand.*

Mr.

POSTSCRIPT.

Mr. Edward Ford, *Bristol.*

Mr. James Bromley, *Rocheſter, Kent.*

Mr. P. Weaver, *Hermitage, Tower-hill.*

Mr. D. Raven, *Hatfield Peveral, Eſſex.*

Mr. Thomas Bredall, *Mattocks-ſtreet, London.*

Mr. J. Dutton, *Mancheſter.*

Mr. Thomas Brittain, *Rugley, Staffordſhire.*

Mr. Thomas Parker, *Glouceſter.*

Mr. Thomas Owen, *Rye, Suſſex.*

Mr. James Scaife, *Carlisle, Cumberland.*

Mr. William Younge, *Shiſſnal, Shropſhire.*

Mr. James Bumpſtead, *Caſtle Heddington,*
Eſſex.

Mr. William Young, *Georgia, America.*

Mr. ——— Druitt, *Winburn, Dorſetſhire.*

Mr. Thomas Shute, *Briſtol.*

Mr. James Travers, *Military Hoſpital,*
Granada.

Dr. William Moore, *Brook-ſtreet.*

Mr. Thomas Vigur's, *Loſtaſſe, Cornwall.*

Mr. Henry Bickerſteth, *Kirbylonſdale, Weſt-*
moreland.

Mr.

POSTSCRIPT.

Mr. Edward Horler, *Tooting, Surry.*

Mr. ——— Willson, junior, *Henrietta-street,*
Covent-Garden.

Mr. Charles Chasmore, *Epsom, Surry.*

Mr. Robert Turner, *Enfield.*

Mr. John Manning, }
Mr. Joseph Lord, } *Boston, New-England.*

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